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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-097
Friday
21 May 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Calls For Halt to Israeli Measures

NC2005154093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—In an urgent appeal today, the Arab League asked all countries of the world to work for an immediate halt to all the Israeli repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement issued today by the Arab League General Secretariat said that the League views these Israeli measures as a "massive obstacle" to the Middle East peace talks.

The statement called for expeditious international protection for Palestinian citizens to create an atmosphere conducive to a just and comprehensive peace based on the implementation of international legitimacy resolutions. Foremost of these, the statement added, is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on all of their national soil.

The statement said the Arab League is following up with great concern the escalating acts of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories. The statement referred to the Israeli occupation authorities' continued closure and isolation of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip from the outside world. It also referred to the serious deterioration of the Palestinians' economic and living conditions resulting from these measures, in addition to their daily suffering from the occupation army's brutal repression in all the occupied territories.

The statement noted that the situation in Gaza has reached a high level of deterioration because of the high population density, the large number of refugee camps, and a lack of ways to earn a living. This, the statement added, has caused unprecedented unemployment and a decline in living standards to the point of famine as a result of the Israeli comprehensive blockade that has been imposed for over 10 weeks.

The Arab League statement praised the persistent efforts being made by United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Middle East to alleviate the Palestinian refugees' suffering.

The statement asked the international community to shoulder all its responsibilities toward the serious situation in the occupied territories that is incompatible with the Geneva Fourth Convention concerning the treatment of civilians under military occupation.

The statement said that Israel's excesses through the policy of repression, starvation, displacement, and the killing of innocent civilians by the Israeli Army bullets since December 1992 are a (?disgrace) to the international community.

Arab Bar Union Continues Suspension of Sudanese Group

NC2005203593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Rabat, 20 May (MENA)—The Standing Bureau of the Arab Bar Association has decided to continue the suspension of the Sudanese lawyers syndicate's membership in the Arab Bar Association.

The decision was based on the grounds that the Sudanese regime has appointed a committee to run the syndicate after nullifying the legitimate syndicate elected from among the lawyers.

The Arab Bar Association's charter does not allow the representation of appointed syndicates in the Association's membership.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Appeals for Cease-Fire in Afghanistan

BK2005044293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has appealed to Afghan leaders to implement the Islamabad peace accord in accordance with their pledge in the holy city of Mecca in March to follow the agreement in letter and spirit and to reach a cease-fire agreement immediately. The appeal was issued by ICO Assistant Secretary General Ibrahim Saleh al-Bakr at a news conference in Islamabad last night. He said the Islamic community is gravely concerned over the situation created by the indiscriminate shellings and bombings, which have resulted in the loss of lives of hundreds of innocent civilians and injuries to thousands, besides causing massive material losses. He said the current situation in Afghanistan is detrimental to the success of the Afghan holy war, the consequences of which are now being faced by the Afghan people. He said that the ICO intends to establish its office in Afghanistan to monitor the cease-fire according to the Islamabad peace accord. He disclosed that the ICO secretary general has asked all member-states to persuade all Afghan leaders to sit down together and hold the consultations necessary to bring an immediate end to fighting, remove their differences, and find an early solution to the problem.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi Calls For Suspending Peace Talks

TA2005141793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 May 93 pp 1, 15

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks, believes that the Palestinian side lost an opportunity to keep the pressure on Israel to respond to Resolution 799 relating to the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi noted that the experience of the ninth round proved that this opportunity was lost at a time when the world was displeased with the Israeli position while showing support and understanding for the Palestinian stance in not going to the talks unless Israel proved its concern for peace through its practices toward the Palestinians.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi was speaking to AL-QUDS upon his return to the occupied territories yesterday from the United States after participating in the ninth round.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that our participation in the ninth round prevented the peace process from being derailed, but it recalled the importance of resorting to the suspension of Palestinian participation, clarifying the difference between suspension and withdrawal. He said that we should show readiness to participate in the talks if the bases on which progress can be made in the negotiations are provided.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi called for adopting a Palestinian position to suspend the talks again, in the wake of the ninth round's experience, if the various efforts do not succeed in affecting a fundamental shift in the Israeli stance and the U.S. role. [passage omitted]

The chief Palestinian negotiator pointed out that the Palestinians are still ready to engage the U.S. Administration in dialogue with an open mind. He indicated that there was no cause for optimism that the U.S. side would adopt a neutral stance.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi explained that the thing which might advance the peace process was a new sense by the U.S. Administration that the Palestinian side will not function in the manner desired by the Americans, whereas the U.S. Administration is only interested in achieving progress in the peace process. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

TA2005144493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation for the bilateral peace talks, today reiterated his call to suspend the negotiations with Israel because no progress was made in the recent round of talks. Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck reports:

Even if they do not uphold the demand to suspend the negotiations with Israel, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi both lashed out today at Israel, charging it with stubbornness and unnecessary foot dragging. Speaking at a news conference he summoned in Gaza, 'Abd-al-Shafi today declared that the negligible results of the last round of talks justify the call Palestinians have been making to suspend the negotiations with Israel unless real efforts are made to introduce a meaningful change in the course of the discussions. I believe the talks should be suspended, he said, because in its current state it cannot make progress.

Delegation spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi is of a different opinion [not further specified]. She also attacked the United States for, what she defined, its one-sided support of Israel—of which the affair of the draft joint declaration of principles is yet another proof. 'Ashrawi denied last night's reports that there are contacts between Washington and the Palestinians about the phrasing of the joint declaration of principles. The Americans indeed offered to resume talks on the issue, but no timetable has been set for this. 'Ashrawi also attacked Palestinian opposition elements who, according to her, were behind the publication of the political documents, an act that harmed the Palestinian bargaining ability.

Off the record, Palestinian sources said that the Americans have been exerting very heavy pressure on the Palestinians to accept the American document and to allow it to be published as a first joint paper in the next round of talks.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 20 May, carries a similar report which adds that, speaking in Gaza, 'Abd-al-Shafi said "he has no intention of quitting his post as head of the Palestinian delegation."]

Assesses Peace Talks

NC2105064593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 21 May 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Gaza, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Welcome, Dr. Haydar.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi: During the ninth round of peace talks, the Palestinian-Israeli track witnessed many ups and downs, progress and retreat. Several papers on autonomy have been proposed. How far have you gone, noting that the 10th round is approaching?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Regrettably, in fact, we made no progress to speak of during the ninth round. The negotiatory standoff remains unchanged due to Israel's noncommitment to the terms of reference of the peace process; namely, Resolution 242. Israel still does not see itself as an occupying power. It does not acknowledge the fact that the existing situation is one of occupation. This contradicts Resolution 242 and the positions of all nations, including the United States. Israel views the occupied territories as disputed lands. It particularly wants to maintain jurisdiction over all or some of these territories. This is the reason for the standoff. Resolution 242 stresses the inadmissibility of occupying others' territory by force and calls for withdrawal within the framework of a peace agreement. As we discuss the interim phase and the authority of the interim Palestinian government, we insist that the interim Palestinian government have control over the territory. We can never accept any Israeli jurisdiction over the land.

[Abu-al-Majd] But it has been said that the U.S. Administration intervened to bring viewpoints closer and that you are having discussions with Washington. What are the latest developments here? Have you reached anything?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, we have reached nothing. The U.S. intervention, through the paper presented to us, ignored the question of territory. For us, this is the main issue. We cannot accept Israeli control over the territory. Israel continues to build settlements in the occupied territories. This conflicts with the concept of the peace process. The parties must not do anything that might affect the results of the negotiations in the second phase—the negotiations that will decide the final status of the occupied territories. Our position is clear and explicit. We are committed to the terms of reference—Resolution 242—and to the joint understanding that no action affecting the negotiations for the final status must be taken.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi: Do we understand from this pessimism that you will not be going to the 10th round of talks, or are there efforts being made to bring viewpoints closer?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is not pessimism. It is an objective position reflecting adherence to the objective considerations governing the peace process. Israel is not committed to Resolution 242 or to the understanding that actions affecting the final-status negotiations must not be taken. All that we are asking for is that Israel abide by the terms of reference for the peace process and refrain from any action that might affect the outcome of the negotiations on the final status.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will you outline a new position at the upcoming meeting in Amman of the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This meeting will be held at the level of foreign ministers, and Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], the foreign minister of the Palestinian leadership [title as heard], will represent the Palestinians. But the position is very clear. We are not against the peace process. On the contrary, we adhere to the peace process. But we want this process to have genuine credibility. Therefore, we will outline our viewpoint very clearly at the Arab foreign ministers' coordination meeting. We, of course, are very interested in a unified Arab position.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do we understand from this that you are asking the U.S. Administration to adopt a certain position to narrow the differences in views, or more accurately, to reaffirm the basis of the peace process?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, indeed, we are asking the U.S. Administration, as a conference sponsor, to fulfill its duty in stressing the need to respect the basis of the peace process—UN Resolution 242—and to force Israel not to carry out any action that would affect the negotiations on the final status, such as building settlements in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem. We are not prepared to make any concessions regarding the issue of land. We have made sufficient concessions. What we are negotiating over is less than 25 percent of the Palestinian homeland. But we will be very flexible in discussing the issue of transferring authorities and the extent of powers to be assumed during the transitional period. But we cannot make concessions regarding the issue of land or control over it.

[Abu-al-Majd] Finally, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, what are the latest developments in the situation in the occupied Arab territories?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The situation is as bad as it can be. This makes one wonder. The Palestinian citizen now actually wonders about the value of negotiations when Israel is carrying out vicious repressive actions against the citizens here. It is unreasonable that a party engaged in peace talks can act so viciously against the citizens. This is another matter that must be taken into consideration. The Palestinian citizen is extremely unhappy that we are engaged in the negotiations while the repression of the Palestinian people continues daily, as you have heard, resulting in people being killed or wounded, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

[Abu-al-Majd] Brother Arabs, at the end of this dialogue, we thank you and thank Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace negotiations, who was speaking to us over the telephone from the occupied Gaza Strip. Thank you, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

'Ashrawi Criticizes U.S. Mediator Role in Talks

TA2005152793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 May 93 p 2

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian negotiating delegation's spokesman, has said that the ninth round was a difficult one during which some outlines of the Israeli limits and the Americans' mechanism for action were revealed. 'Ashrawi described Israel as a vicious enemy that does not move easily.

On the recent U.S. proposal and reports about upcoming Palestinian-U.S. meetings, 'Ashrawi, who returned yesterday to the country, said: The official reply to the U.S. proposal is that the United States is biased in favor of Israel and is not qualified to be a mediator, but we are ready to continue negotiating with the U.S. side.

'Ashrawi denied reports on an upcoming meeting with U.S. officials in Jerusalem. She said: The Americans proposed that a Palestinian delegation come to Washington, but no agreement on that has been reached yet, nor a timetable put forward.

Dr. 'Ashrawi called on the Palestinian public to have patience and stamina. She emphasized the talks' difficulty, and said: Israel is a vicious enemy that uses all means to obtain what it wants. We have to be patient, steadfast, and capable of persevering. We must not fall prey to Israeli intrigues.

The Palestinian delegation's spokesman acknowledged that the negotiating battle was unequal. She stressed the need of working relentlessly to neutralize the Israeli advantage in a bid to improve the Palestinian negotiating position.

'Ashrawi attacked the opposition's attempt to turn the talks into a propaganda exchange. She said that the distribution of negotiating papers to the press and the numerous statements by some opposition officials gives the impression that the Palestinian position is not serious. This undermines the negotiators' stance inside the negotiations room.

'Ashrawi called on the opposition to use a serious and responsible method of action if it is interested in bolstering, instead of undermining, the Palestinian negotiators' position.

Although 'Ashrawi affirmed the people's right to know what is transpiring, she noted that it was impossible to negotiate through the pages of the newspapers, because that will harm the Palestinian negotiators' plan, program, strategy, and tactics.

The Palestinian spokesman revealed that the opposition has demanded that the Central Council meeting be postponed and be replaced by a national dialogue, whereas some members of the Palestinian delegation have called for the Central Council's convocation as soon as possible.

Opposition Calls For Conference To Assess Talks

TA2005161793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 93 p A3

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] The peace process in its present form should be suspended, and a uniform stand representing the territories' population should be formulated by a comprehensive national conference and presented to the PLO leadership. These remarks were made by representatives of the Palestinian opposition in the territories in the course of a news conference at the National Hotel in East Jerusalem yesterday.

Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and Dr. Muhammad Jadallah from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Nayif Hawatimah, added that their organizations would not participate in the coming meeting of the Palestine Central Council unless the peace process was first reassessed.

The Central Council—an in-between body bridging the "Parliament," the Palestine National Council [PNC], on the one hand, and the Executive Committee, the supreme executive body of the PLO, on the other—is slated to convene in Amman at the beginning of the next month to evaluate the outcome of the ninth round of the Washington talks and to receive recommendations concerning the Palestinians' participation in the 10th round.

In the opposition's view, the Central Council is the PLO leadership' rubber stamp, and its resolutions are designed to provide the leaders' policies with official endorsement without serious discussion. They urged the other Palestinian components of the PLO to also stay away from the Central Council convention.

They further said that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace process, believes that a national conference comprising all the Palestinian political elements should convene in the territories to reassess the foundations of the process. According to them, 'Abd-al-Shafi has been approached on this matter.

According to them, similar contacts have been held with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representatives abroad. It will be noted that the PFLP, the DFLP, as well as Hamas, all participate in the Damascus-centered forum of peace process opponents, the "Ten Palestinian Organizations."

Dr. al-Maliki said: "When most delegation members return from abroad, where they spend most of their time, we will contact them in a bid to launch preparations toward convening a comprehensive national conference in the territories, in which the masses should also participate and be given a chance to voice their views."

The two men said that the Palestinian delegation does not represent the residents of the territories, and in addition, it ignores the dire situation in the territories, the public sentiment of mistrust toward it, and the risks the Palestinian people run in the current peace process. They went to the extent of blaming the delegates of deliberately avoiding a discussion of the closure and Jerusalem's detachment from the territories in order to enable the Washington peace talks to resume.

They added that in view of the failure of the ninth round of talks, which was another link in a chain of past rounds' failures, a good opportunity has now arisen to build the national action plan on more appropriate foundations and to find common ground between the supporters and the opponents of the process.

They noted that it was possible to formulate a uniform stand in which the present peace process would be merely one option. The option they recommended, however, was the one endorsed by the PNC prior to the peace process, under which negotiations should be conducted at an international conference, the Palestinian delegation should comprise the PLO and the entire Palestinian people, and the UN resolutions—principally UN Resolutions 242 and 338 (territories for peace), as well as 194 (the right of return), be implemented.

The two opposition representatives further emphasized that the Palestinian institutions—both those "outside" and those in the territories—should be reorganized on the basis of democratic representation rules, "in order to include the masses in the decisionmaking process." They asserted that this should be one of the main objectives of the national conference. [passage omitted]

Delegation Adviser Hopes for Success in Talks With U.S.

TA2105052493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] A delegation of U.S. Administration officials is due in Jerusalem next week for a series of consultations with Israel and the Palestinians to formulate a joint document of principles. Disagreements have erupted within the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks with regard to its participation in the next round. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] [Amir] Although the Palestinian delegation has not yet discussed all the details of the negotiations in the ninth round of talks, which ended in Washington last week, some of its members, headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, have already voiced their opinion in the media in favor of suspending the talks, which have so far not yielded any results.

Dr. Nazmi al-Ju'bah, a professor of archaeology and an adviser to the Palestinian delegation, believes that the disagreements within the Palestinian delegation are only natural. He stressed that when all is said and done, it is not the delegates but the PLO leadership in Tunis that will decide whether to attend the talks.

[Al-Ju'bah] The Palestinian delegation is always plagued with disagreements, and that is very natural. The makeup of the delegation enables everyone to express his opinion and present it to the media. Some members voice their opinion in the media as a means of making a recommendation to our leadership. This recommendation is sometimes accepted and other times not. In other words, our leadership in Tunis will ultimately make the decision. We have not yet started discussing the next round. We will consider the matter and study what came out of the latest round. We have plenty of documents to study, and we will start discussing the matter as soon as we are done. At this point, no formal decision has been made.

[Amir] Sources in East Jerusalem pointed out that Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's remarks in favor of suspending the talks until a solution is found to the most fundamental question in the negotiations—that is to say, until Israel accepts the Palestinian interpretation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338—point to his insistence on precipitating events, without giving a chance to negotiations on less fundamental issues. The sources hinted that Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi may announce that he will not attend the next round of talks for personal reasons.

Meanwhile, the heads of the Palestinian delegation are awaiting the arrival of a delegation of State Department officials to discuss the disputed issues in the document of principles presented by the Americans at the end of the ninth round of talks.

[Al-Ju'bah] First of all, they should have acted better in the ninth round. They did not proceed very well, and I believe they are trying to correct that now. They are already starting to get ready for the 10th round, and we think that is good. We hope the Americans will get down to business, will assure both sides that they are very interested in this peace process, and will not leave us hanging in the air for two years as they have in the past. They are sending a delegation to Jerusalem next week, and we hope we will be able to discuss with them the basis of an agreement between us and the Israelis. We hope they succeed.

[Amir] So much for the view of members of the Palestinian delegation. In contrast, opponents of the talks are getting ready for a struggle to win over the Palestinian man-in-the-street in order to weaken the support for the delegation members and for the entire peace process. [end recording]

Aims of U.S.-Palestinian Consultations Questioned

TA2005191193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 May 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Palestinian-U.S. Consultations"]

[Text] We follow with immense interest the remark by an informed Palestinian source two days ago that Palestinian-U.S. consultations are to begin shortly in Jerusalem. As this source pointed out, these consultations will seek to conclude the talks halted in the ninth round over a joint Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles regarding a plan for the interim period in the occupied territories. It seems that the aim of these consultations is to bring the positions closer, whereby it would be possible to sign a declaration of principles during the upcoming round of negotiations under the sponsorship of the United States, "the full partner" in the talks.

During the ninth round of the stalled bilateral talks the meaning of full U.S. partnership became clear not only to the Palestinian side, but also to all the Arab parties. After these parties decided to participate in this round and drop their conditions on the basis of a U.S. promise to intervene quickly in the negotiating process under cover of "full partner," they discovered after the round's start that the meaning of this "partnership" was total bias toward Israel. Thus, the United States exercised its full partnership and quick intervention in procedural matters, such as the holding of a joint meeting at the beginning of the round presided by the U.S. secretary of state. Then, in substantive issues it began to adopt the Israeli position. The U.S. paper presented as a compromise document for a Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles was the best evidence of bias.

It should be affirmed and acknowledged that the U.S.-Israeli relationship is not tactical, nor is it only a strategic relationship that gets stronger or weaker in accordance with international changes. Rather, it is a physically bonded relationship in which the two sides' perceptions, values, and interests are totally interlinked. From this premise, the Arab and Palestinian illusion that the United States can be an unbiased party and judge must be eliminated. U.S. bias in favor of Israel is an established policy beyond the differences of administrations and parties.

The consultations being held and that will be held with the United States are not consultations with "the sponsor" of the peace and negotiating process, but with a major party in it. This party has a clear, known, and defined position: Total cohesion with the Israeli position. Hence, one should not count on these consultations other than being a means to bring the mobile Palestinian stance closer to the frozen and immovable Israeli stance.

'Arafat Message Shows Willingness To Meet Israelis

PM2105080093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 May 93 pp1, 4

[Salamah Ni'mat report from Amman and unattributed report from Tunis: "'Arafat Sent Message to Rabin Confirming Willingness To Take Over Gaza"]

[Excerpt] Amman officially confirmed yesterday that King Husayn will meet with President Bill Clinton on 18 June.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources have told AL-HAYAH that President Yasir 'Arafat, who returned to Tunis from Vienna yesterday, gave Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitsky a message for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The sources said that the message which will be passed on by Vranitsky, who is expected in Israeli on 8 June, conveys 'Arafat's willingness to hold a public or secret meeting with Israeli officials in Austria or anywhere else. The Palestinian president also reaffirms the PLO's readiness to take over the Gaza Strip if Israel decides to withdraw from it provided that this is coupled with withdrawal from Jericho.

They added that the Palestinian offer includes taking over security affairs in Gaza and guaranteeing calm there as soon as the Israelis withdraw from it.

'Arafat also asked the Austrian Chancellor to raise with the Israelis the issue of Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories, and he underlined the willingness of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral negotiations to discuss a declaration of principles to be issued during the next round and not just a joint statement as proposed by the United States at the end of the latest round. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Refuses U.S. Request To Send Representative

PM2005160493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 May 93 p 1

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "'Arafat Rejects U.S. Request To Send Representatives to Washington"]

[Text] Tunis—Palestinian sources in Tunis have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that senior U.S. State Department officials have on numerous occasions urged the Palestinian side to send representatives to Washington to continue consultations on the U.S. paper on the joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration submitted by the U.S. sponsor at the end of the ninth round, whose full text AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published yesterday.

The sources added that the U.S. Administration based its request on the contents of the Palestinian memorandum submitted to the cosponsors of the peace conference in response to the U.S. paper which called for "continuing U.S. consultation with the two sides to study the Palestinian and Israeli proposals on the declaration of principles. This effort can begin now so that we can reach an agreed declaration of principles in the near future with the two cosponsors."

It has been learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat rejected the U.S. request and decided not to send any Palestinian representative to Washington before the regular meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers scheduled to be held in Amman soon.

In an attempt by the U.S. and Palestinian sides to resolve this dilemma it has been agreed to continue consultations among them at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, the Palestinian side believes that these consultations should center around the Palestinian and Israeli plans on the declaration of principles, not around the U.S. joint declaration. Whereas the U.S. view is that the consultations should not move outside the framework of the joint declaration.

According to the same information, Samuel Lewis, official in charge of strategic policy planning at the U.S. State Department and member of the U.S. team to the negotiations, is expected to arrive in the Middle East region within the next few days. He is also expected personally to continue the consultations with the Palestinian side at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem.

DFLP's Khalid on Split in Palestinian Stance

PM2005152693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 May 93 p 6

[Interview with Taysir Khalid, "member of the PLO Executive Committee and an official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine," by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qulaybi] [passage omitted] The following is the text of the interview, which Taysir Khalid began by saying: If we recall all the Palestinian demands which crystallized after the Israeli Government's decision to deport over 400 Palestinian citizens to southern Lebanon and after Security Council Resolution 799, all developments confirmed the erroneousness of participation in the ninth round of negotiations. This is because a national consensus crystallized on the Palestinian scene on the importance of reexamining the position on the current negotiation process, especially after Israel refused to comply with Resolution 799 or recognize the need to implement it. [passage omitted]

This is why we said that participation in the ninth round was a strategic mistake for several reasons, most importantly that Israel and the U.S. Administration did not respond to any of the just Palestinian demands. And that the team running the negotiation process sacrificed the national consensus for verbal promises which proved at the negotiating table to be merely political tricks designed to lure the Palestinian negotiator into a joint U.S.-Israeli plan reflected in the Israeli plan and in the U.S. proposals, which are identical to it.

As for the results of this round, anyone who believes it has offered nothing and its outcome is nil would be mistaken. What was achieved at the negotiating table is something qualitative and serious.

The delegation went to the ninth round with a negotiating strategy based on securing Israeli and U.S. recognition of Resolution 242's application to the occupied Palestinian territories, beginning with the transitional arrangements phase; securing Israeli recognition of Jerusalem's inclusion in the geographical jurisdiction of the authority of the Palestinian transitional self-government; plus a complete halt to settlement and Israel's respect for the fourth Geneva convention, under which it should stop barbaric actions like demolishing and destroying homes by means of rockets, killing citizens, and extending the enforcement of decisions to close the occupied areas and starve their citizens in a desperate attempt to bring them to their knees and harm their intifadah.

But this strategy dissipated the moment the negotiating team sat at the negotiating table. It succumbed to the trap set beforehand by the U.S. Administration and Israel through the plans submitted—which enabled the U.S. Administration to intervene as a full partner of Israel and submit its proposals, which were identical to the Israeli plan. The outcome here is clear—abandoning a relatively acceptable strategy and falling into the sphere of a political demand reflected in the need to deal with the U.S. proposals.

[Al-Qulaybi] How do you view these U.S. proposals, and how would you assess the Palestinian response to them and the rumors about the Palestinian team's rejection of them?

[Khalid] The U.S. proposals confirmed the United States' role as a full partner of Israel in the negotiations. Even the team running the negotiation process from Tunis admits clearly that the U.S. proposals are a blueprint of the Israeli plan. This is clear in the basic outlines of these proposals and what these proposals said and did not say.

The U.S. proposals excluded any discussion of the Jerusalem issue at the negotiating table. They also excluded any discussion of the settlements and settlement activities, as though they approve of the Israeli position on Jerusalem and the settlements.

The U.S. proposals made no reference to the Palestinian people. They just talked about the Palestinians, thus dropping recognition of them as a people and their national rights. The U.S. proposals did not refer to the Palestinian territories as occupied territories. They just described them as disputed areas. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian response to these proposals comprises two parts, and it reflects in essence a response in two languages. First the Palestinian response emphasized that the U.S. proposals espouse the ideas of the Israeli plan with its phrases and terminology, are in conflict with the letter of assurances and the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference, and contradict George Bush's speech in March 1991.

The second part of the response stressed Palestinian willingness to continue consultation on these proposals. This is the difference between those claiming that the U.S. proposals are rejected because they are a blueprint of the rejected Israeli plan and those expressing willingness to continue consultation on these proposals. The contradiction is clear. At any rate, anyone who goes back to the statements made by some of the figures running the negotiation process or participating in the negotiations will realize that the Palestinian response did not comprise a rejection of the proposals. In fact these figures predicted the possibility of reaching a declaration of principles proceeding from these proposals in the next negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] In view of these factors, how do you envisage future prospects with regard to the negotiation process, and what alternative do you, as an oppositionist faction, propose?

[Khalid] In our view, the current process in Washington will sooner or later encounter an inevitable dilemma, even if the team running this process continues its policy of concessions. This is because this team cannot impose on the Palestinian people and their oppositionist national, progressive, and democratic forces a solution that does not meet the minimum of their demands and national rights. It has not got sufficient power in the face of a national consensus which emphasizes daily its determination to fight the self-rule plans in any shape or form. The national strike staged on the first day of the ninth round confirmed the Palestinian people's opposition to the policy of the leadership running the negotiation process, and to increase this leadership's isolation. At the same time developments and the results of this round tended to confirm that this leadership has lost credibility among the masses.

This is being said not only by us as an oppositionist force, but also, behind closed doors, by those leading these negotiations. So we are betting on this process' encountering an inevitable dilemma; at the same time we offer a unifying, realistic national alternative by calling for the suspension of participation in the next round through a clear and open decision and the start of a comprehensive national dialogue to prepare for the Central Council session and an emergency session of the Palestine National Council, so that legitimate Palestinian bodies can have their say on the course of these negotiations, their foundations, and the formula of Palestinian representation in their framework. We urge such a dialogue on the basis of suspending participation in the negotiations. We also call for the revival of the legitimate bodies of the PLO so that they will be the arbiter.

[Al-Qulaybi] If these appeals are not responded to, will future developments carry within themselves the possibilities of new splits in PLO ranks?

[Khalid] The team running the negotiation process cannot impose on the PLO—on the grounds that it is a united national front and a coalition comprising the PLO's various factions—its own logic in running national action in crucial and fateful moments without giving attention to the developments which may result from that. Without doubt the political split in PLO ranks and in the people's ranks has deepened and widened as a result of the decision to participate in the ninth round. We urge the suspension of this process to safeguard the unity of ranks and the unity of joint struggle, so that we will not find ourselves faced with a situation imposing a further split and fragmentation on the PLO and the people.

Points of Negotiators' Document to Israelis Reported

NC2005165393 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Jerusalem, May 20 (AFP)—Palestinian peace negotiators have asked Israel to include residents of Arab East Jerusalem in a poll to elect a Palestinian interim authority for the occupied territories, according to an informal draft obtained Thursday [20 May] by AFP.

The 10-point document, dated May 10 and described as a "draft proposal for a declaration of principles," also calls for the start of negotiations on the permanent status of the territories "no later than October 1994."

The recommendations made in the document, obtained through Palestinian sources, were submitted to the Israeli delegation at the ninth round of peace talks which ended last Thursday in Washington with no progress.

The Palestinians called for the creation of a "Palestinian Interim Self-Governing Authority (PISGA) ... through free, general and direct elections under agreed appropriate international supervision."

The document stressed that Palestinians from the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem—which Israel considers part of its "whole and united capital", should participate in the elections and that the PISGA "will assume legislative, executive and judicial powers."

It called on the Israeli military authorities and civil administration in the occupied territories to transfer all their powers to the PISGA following the elections and for an Israeli military pullout to start then.

At the talks, Israel also submitted a draft proposal for a declaration of principles, namely offering to hand over legislative powers to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Israel also proposed that a Palestinian Executive Council be established "through free, general and direct elections, by and from the Palestinians of the territories, which will be held under agreed supervision."

But it stressed Israel would retain responsibility for security and Israeli settlers in the occupied territories.

PLO chief negotiator Faysal al-Husayni dismissed the Israeli document as full of contradictions and unkept promises and announced that the Palestinian peace team had been slashed to three members in protest.

Dissenters From Abu-Nidal Group Appeal to Libya

PM2005145493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 May 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Dissenters From Abu-Nidal's Group Appeal to Libya To Allow One of Their Leaders To Leave Its Territory"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—A statement issued by "the Central Committee and the First Region [al-iqlim al-awwal] Leadership of Fatah-Revolutionary Council [FRC]" has warned the FRC, which is led by Sabri al-Banna (Abu-Nidal), against "any harm to our comrade Sami Abu-al-Haytham and his family and children."

The statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH yesterday, was in reply to a statement issued by the leadership of the Abu-Nidal group on 3 May including a decision to dismiss FRC Central Committee member and official spokesman Abu-al-Haytham and strip him of all posts.

It is known that the FRC's "First Region Leadership" broke away from the movement's leadership last month. According to Palestinian sources, this dissident group is led by 'Abd-al-Karim al-Banna (Abu-Husam), a relative of Abu-Nidal, and has its headquarters in Baghdad.

The "First Region" statement (issued last Wednesday) calls on "the brother Libyan leaders" to ensure the departure of Abu-al-Haytham and his family from Libya and to ensure the safety of the supporters of the dissident movement. It confirmed that Abu-Nidal has been expelled from Algeria, Libya, and Sudan and that he "no longer has any political or organizational existence."

It reaffirmed the position of the "First Region" opposed to inter-Palestinian liquidation war and stressed the slogan "Palestinian blood is inviolable." It urged "all comrades in various fields who cannot contact the organization's leadership for reasons beyond their control to coordinate with the brothers in the Palestinian and Arab factions and through channels allied with the organization."

AL-HAYAH yesterday received a second statement signed by FRC Central Committee member Kamal Mansur supporting the "brave organizational move and responsible stance taken by a number of our comrades in the Central Committee and the First Region Leadership." It criticized Abu-Nidal and praised "the comrades in the Lebanese arena who have completely stopped playing any part in this yellow war (of inter-Palestinian liquidation)."

It emphasized that Abu-Nidal is now "too weak to resume that yellow war, which stopped since our movement's first statement." In conclusion, it called for an end to the "divisions, fragmentation, and infighting (...), with a yes to unity of the organization."

The FRC broke away from Fatah, the biggest PLO faction, in 1972. Fatah at the time sentenced Abu-Nidal to death in absentia.

Algeria

Culture Minister Interviewed on Terrorism

LD2005155393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mav 93

[Text] In a statement to the Egyptian Voice of the Arabs radio, Minister of Culture and Communication Habib Chawki Hamraoui dealt with the issue of terrorism, the need to oppose it, and the role of the media in this. He called for the unification of Arab and Islamic efforts to confront terrorism. The minister stressed that the phenomenon of terrorism does not affect Algeria and Egypt alone, but is a conspiracy that is not so much aimed against specific regimes but is rather a violation of the essence of civilization, which has distorted the magnanimous purity of Islam and the Muslims.

Constantine Special Court Sentences 'Terrorist Group'

LD2105023093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] The special court in Constantine today passed sentence against those accused in the case of what is known as the Fax Group. Here are the details from Rabah Belmili in Constantine:

[Belmili] Following marathon deliberations, the special court of Constantine announced the verdict against the accused in the case known as the Fax Group, which was accused of setting up a terrorist group with the aim of infringing upon state security, trading in firearms, and forgery.

The sentences passed ranged from 20 years imprisonment to acquittal. The maximum sentence of 20 years was passed against four defendants, two of them in their presence, namely Boulares Mohamed Bachir and Kassama Faouzi Kamel. They were charged with creating a terrorist group, hailing terrorist acts, and forgery. They were also fined 20,000 Algerian dinars and stripped of their civil rights for five years. The two sentenced in absentia, Rabah Kebir and Ferid Noureddine, were also fined 500,000 Algerian dinars and stripped of their civil rights for 10 years.

A sentence of 10 years imprisonment was given to Souames Yazid, who was also fined 20,000 Algerian dinars and stripped of civil rights for two years. A four-year sentence was given to Kouda Mostafa, and three-year sentences to Boudjriou Ali and Ben Naamoun Nacereddine. They were also fined 10,000 Algerian dinars and stripped of their civil rights for two years for the charge of hailing terrorist acts.

Ten defendants were acquitted. We would like to note in conclusion that each defendant sentenced by the court has eight days to appeal the sentence of the special court of Constantine before the Supreme Court.

Egypt

Musa, PLO's 'Abbas Continue Discussion of Peace Talks

NC2105051793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has met with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, who currently is visiting Egypt. They continued discussions on Arab developments, the results of the ninth round of peace talks in Washington, and efforts to surmount obstacles hindering a solution to the Palestine question. The Palestinian ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

AL-AHRAM Sees Progress in Peace Talks

NC2105070793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM argues that it is wrong to say that the ninth round of bilateral peace talks in Washington ended without progress. There are many indications that progress was made, but not as much as was hoped.

The paper says in its editorial today that an objective analysis of the ninth round perhaps would point out that a wide gap still exists between the Israeli and Palestinian positions, especially concerning the interim self-government in the occupied territories, and that the worst thing about Israel's declaration-of-principles proposal is that it excludes Jerusalem, settlements, and security.

AL-AHRAM stresses that the way to confront Israel's intransigence is not to withdraw from the negotiations, but to insist on continuing them and to offer alternative solutions to expose Israel before the world and force it to comply with the international resolutions and the requirements of peace.

Musa Says Cordon States Meeting Planned

NC2105093293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0901 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that contacts are still under way to set a date for the meeting in Amman of the foreign ministers of the five Arab countries involved in the peace process.

He said the meeting is expected to be held at the end of May or after the blessed 'Id al-Adha holiday [approximately 1-4 June].

He said the conferees will discuss the outcome of the ninth round of peace talks in Washington and define the Arab position in the next stage.

Mubarak Comments on Regional, Domestic Issues

NC1905183093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has said that development in Africa requires full stability. Stability, he pointed out, is needed to achieve development programs in African countries. The president said that development will be on the agenda of the OAU summit due to be held in Cairo on 28 June. This was stated by Mahfuz al-Ansari, head of the African Journalists Association, following a meeting between President Mubarak, members of the association, and a number of Egyptian journalists and writers. [passage omitted]

Mubarak said: I am exerting efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere. I would not be divulging a secret to tell you that I discussed this topic in detail during my last Gulf tour. I may add, in all frankness, that reconciliation is not as easy as some may think. The wounds are deep ones and the fears are still there.

The president added: Forgetting takes time. We have to remember that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait divided the Arabs into two camps and we have to reunite them. I am doing what I can in this direction and will continue to do so, but others should understand that there are limits to what I can do and that matters will take time.

The president said: During my Gulf tour, I sensed a desire, albeit a cautious one, to clear the Arab atmosphere.

Asked by the Libyan journalists doyen for his assessment of Libya's performance regarding the Lockerbie problem, Mubarak said: Our task now is not to discuss all problems one by one [as received]. However, we are exerting great efforts and I do not want to talk about governments' performance and we are not in the process of evaluating them.

He added: We all know the problem and if you want the truth I will reveal things for the first time. The massive efforts Egypt exerted to settle the Lockerbie problems were about to harm our interests. As we defended and worked for Libya, we clashed with big countries for an honorable solution acceptable to everyone for Libya's sake. We also must realize that the solution is not in my hand and that I cannot, nor can anyone in Egypt, advise Libya to hand over the suspects, but we are searching for a way to reach a solution.

Mubarak said: When any problem occurs between Arab brothers and European and American friends, Egypt intervenes and seeks to resolve it, but it can never impose a solution on anyone. We are doing all we can, helping with all our capabilities, giving advice sometimes, and explaining the various stands' dimensions, results, and repercussions. He added: The international political arena is full of information and options and whenever a possibility arises, we do not hesitate to exploit it.

The president said: Egypt's persistent stand aiming for a solution has placed it in confrontation with big powers. Egypt does not follow anyone no matter what. We are friends with everyone. We are friends with the United States but do not follow anyone at all, nor do we take orders from anyone. This is our firm and constant stand.

Commenting on the Middle East problem, the president said: We exerted and continue to exert every effort in this issue to reach a just and comprehensive solution and contact American and European friends and everyone know this. Despite this, there is someone who says we are trying to impose solutions on the Palestinians. It is true that some small factions within the Palestinian family are the ones who say that Egypt is imposing a U.S. solution, but this has not happened and it will not. As I said, we do not allow the United States or anyone else to tell me do this and not do that. This is my nature and Egypt's character. We are doing all we can to help, rejecting any unjust position that does not achieve justice, and declaring our stand with utter frankness and clarity to all the parties; the Palestinians know this.

Mubarak was asked about the implementation of the principles laid down at the previous Dakar summit to resolve the African problems. He replied: The Dakar summit entrusted Senegalese President Abdou Diouf with this responsibility. The African brothers' work during their chairmanship of the (?summit) is a chain of continuous links because they are the ones who laid down the bases and foundations and seek to resolve the problems during the chairmanship of each of them.

He said that each president in OAU accomplishes what he can and no one starts from zero; we all adhere to all the principles we have laid down. The OAU is a strong organization. In the 30 years since it was founded, it has worked for the continent's interests and taken up the responsibility for coordinating among its member countries. We must realize that our organization is strong, much stronger than others. I hope and work to support the continuation of its strength for the good of our nations and Africa.

The president was asked for his view of an Israeli journalist's statement that Egypt, Jordan, and Syria are opposed to establishing a Palestinian state. Mubarak answered the questioner: You seem to have met a person who does know not that Egypt will never stand against a Palestinian state. We have no problem with establishing such a state. On the contrary, we have strongly tried to set up this Palestinian state and we will be happy with it. The point is that those who spoke to you wanted to avoid the blame by casting it on others.

The president was also asked about the extent of his preoccupation and concern with the phenomenon of extremism, which is spreading to Africa, and Iran's support for it. He replied: Undoubtedly, I am busy with this issue because anything threatening and jeopardizing the country preoccupies me. I am the president of this country and my task is to defend it, so I must do so. Iran itself has announced that Egypt is the cornerstone impeding what it calls the propagation of Iranian Islam and that Egypt is against the spread of Iranian influence. They said that President Mubarak specifically is the obstacle in our way. But I say that in Egypt we do not need Islam coming from Iran and we in Egypt do not accept Islamic advice from Iran, for we are the country of al-Azhar, which sponsors the genuine Islam.

Replying to a question on Sudan's role in supporting terrorism, the president said: I will not elaborate on this subject. Your Sudanese colleague is among us here. However, I would like to point out a few things. The brothers in Sudan recently launched a campaign against us, which is continuing. They know that we had no part in the al-Bashir coup and we had no connection with it. But they asked for our economic and social help. We sent them 22 planes loaded with food and all the needs of the Sudanese people who were suffering from a severe crisis and shortage in everything. [passage omitted]

Mubarak noted that the brothers in Sudan fabricated the story that Egypt oversaw a coup attempt in Sudan. He affirmed that Egypt does not interfere in Sudan's, or any other country's domestic affairs. We never impose anything on a Sudanese leader and have never taken part in a coup attempt in Sudan or any other country, he said. [passage omitted]

Asked about his views on the issue of Hala'ib, Mubarak explained that the brothers in Sudan announced that Egypt had moved its armies to wage a war against them. He asserted that Egypt will not fight Sudan and that it has no tanks or artillery in Hala'ib. The issue is that they brought military personnel to Hala'ib. We do not restrict the entry or exit of Sudanese civilians, because the Egyptians and Sudanese live together, he said, pointing out that the Sudanese started to talk about mobilization and moving their missiles and reiterating that Egypt will not fight Sudan.

Mubarak noted that the Sudanese raised the issue of Hala'ib during the time of late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, who told them to take the land up to Aswan. They later raised the issue during late President Anwar al-Sadat's time and are raising it again today.

He affirmed that the Egyptian presence in Hala'ib at present is limited to a force of the border guards and that there are no missiles or guns. They are talking and I will not answer them, he said. [passage omitted]

The president was asked whether the recent terrorist operations in Egypt have exploited the democracy he has taken as a basis for his ruling system. He answered that these terrorist operations do not scare him and that democracy is the only guarantee without which corruption will grow. He pointed out that the freedoms of opinion and the press disclose everything and uncover the corrupt elements. We should not fear democracy, he emphasized. [passage omitted]

Mubarak was then asked about a visit to Cairo by the South African foreign minister, he said: There are no relations between Egypt and South Africa. In fact we were always reluctant to meet with South African officials. However, during Namibia's independence celebrations I met with the South African president and asked him about his policy toward the people of South Africa. We refused to establish diplomatic relations before knowing their policies and the future in that country. Mubarak pointed out that diplomatic and economic relations exist between South Africa and a number of its neighboring African states. He added: I would like to say that any step we take now is intended to help the brothers. Our relations with Israel have helped the Palestinian brothers, so let us try to help the people of South Africa.

Mubarak was then asked if he is optimistic about the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state soon. He said: To be very frank with you, you know that Israel and the West are against the establishment of this state. As you know, the United States is the power that rules the world, and everybody supports it. As I have already mentioned, Egypt cannot impose a solution on a superpower, so let us try to do what is possible; that is, to establish a confederal state [dawlah fidraliyah] between Jordan and Palestine first and then after that it is possible to set up an independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Regional Security, Sudan

NC1905135393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 May 93 p 3

[Report on an "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by an unidentified correspondent in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said the terrorism issue is imposing itself on the Egyptian talks with the six Gulf states and has become an international and regional affair. Terrorism causes concern and alarm in societies, hinders development, and harms the political course of any state, particularly in the Middle East, which faces many economic, political, and security problems. He said terrorism is not only an Egyptian concern, but a regional and international one too.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AHRAM, the foreign minister said there is complete understanding between Egypt and the Arab Gulf states on politics and ideology and on future joint Arab action. President Mubarak's visit to the Gulf states is an Arab visit to Arab states within an Arab framework and there must be a firm and sound basis for understanding. There is no reason to consult non- Arab states on this. He explained that no Arab-Arab meeting should be directed against another state, but the realities must be considered, noting, in connection with confronting terrorism, that it is not accurate to say a front against terrorism should be established, because what is needed is for everyone to oppose terrorism.

On Egypt's views on Gulf security, which President Mubarak raised during his current tour, Foreign Minister Musa said: An issue that concerns us will be security in this area, how it can be achieved, the framework of agreement on it, and how it can be implemented. This issue will be discussed at the meeting of the foreign ministers [of the Damascus Declaration states] in Abu Dhabi on 12 June.

Commenting on Iran's objection to any Egyptian-Syrian role in Gulf security, Musa said: This is their view. They are free to think what they like. But our policy, our actions, and our views are that Gulf security is part of the Arab national security. I have already said that if there an interregional discussion on security, any fraternal Middle Eastern country can participate and we can reach an understanding provided there is no intention to undermine the stability of the Middle East or to impose anything on it. We are holding talks within the framework of Arab national security—an Arab affair that is of no concern to anyone but the Arabs. If the Arabs agree to cooperate with one party or another, that is something else. But there are bases and conditions and no understanding can be reached except within the framework of agreement among all the parties on stability and peace.

He added: The outlook is important. But we cannot get involved in ideas that will take us back many centuries and eventually result in undermining the Islamic identity. You can sense the extent to which Islam has been stabbed, harmed because of irresponsible policies. I am not referring here to any specific state.

On the Damascus Declaration and whether talk about its collapse has stopped, the foreign minister said: I will answer this question after 12 June, when the next meeting is held. It will then be possible to determine whether the Declaration has come out of the recovery room. I expect, God willing, that it will emerge from the recovery room after the Abu Dhabi meeting. The economic part will be discussed in Doha on 18 May at the meeting of the economy ministers. The security part will be discussed at the June meeting. We will talk about the two parts after the meetings, not before.

On whether there is dialogue now on the notion of an Arab reconciliation in view of the discussion that the Damascus Declaration is linked to this reconciliation, Musa said: Everyone has the desire to move the current Arab situation toward a better one. But it is evident from the discussions that this will need some time. We hope that this will be achieved, that is, the Arab situation will change from the current dilapidated condition into one that is strengthened or starts to form Arab solidarity against many challenges to common security and development. He noted that the concept presented by the Arab League has not yet been discussed because the conditions must be ripe for the participation of all Arab countries in this step. He added: The wound caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait remains deeply painful despite all the current efforts, including the recent Iraqi-Moroccan contacts. Egypt's view begins from the premise that Iraq is a single state entity, that its territorial integrity must be maintained, that it should not be partitioned, and that anything which might harm its people and territories must be prevented. Iraq is part of the Arab nation and has not seceded from it. It is in no one's interest to sever it from this nation. Iraq's future is solely in the hands of the Iraqi people.

Musa went on to say: Our desire to overcome this stage should be everyone's desire and responsibility, including the present Iraqi regime. At the same time, it should be understood that no one in the Arab countries can ever accept the idea of annexation, invasion, and absorption. This responsibility is not limited to a specific number of the Arab countries.

On the U.S. "guarantees" to give impetus to the peace process, Musa said: There are in fact U.S. "guarantees" given to the Palestinians. The progress of the negotiations cannot be judged after each session or at the end of every week. They should be given ample time so that they can be judged. However, the ninth round was useful and was in itself progress.

On Egypt's concept of how to resolve the dispute with Sudan over "Hala'ib" and the reports about Libyan mediation, the Egyptian foreign minister said: The issue between Egypt and Sudan does not need mediation. Of course, we thank everyone who expresses the desire to mediate. The present situation is merely a tempest in a teapot. Egypt does not intervene in Sudan's internal affairs or wants to enter into a confrontation that it does not desire or seek. We are confident that Sudan has also the same desire because the important thing is to let the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples continue to have their historic ties. Any policy against this trend is bound to fail. Our policy is this: While we do not want a confrontation, we do not accept any trends that harm Egypt's security whether directly or indirectly or in any other way that encircles Egypt. There is certainly a political difference with Sudan. It is a major one but it is not only a difference between Egypt and the Sudanese Government or its policy but also between Sudan and many countries. We cannot say that everyone is wrong while Sudan alone is right. We are all Muslims and we all care about our Islamic identity which must remain pure and modern. Islam is in fact capable of developing because it is simultaneously traditional and contemporary.

Agreement Signed With U.S. on Narcotics Case

NC2005204693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi and U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau signed an agreement today between the Egyptian Counternarcotics General Administration and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

The agreement provides for the two sides dividing equally the money seized and confiscated inside the United States in an international case where the Egyptian Counternarcotics Administration apprehended a smuggler during his passage through Cairo airport. The smuggler's arrest led to the identification of the members of a smuggling network in the United States. The network and the money involved were seized in the United States in coordination with Egypt.

During today's meeting, the U.S. ambassador commended the distinctive role the Egyptian counternarcotic agencies are playing in fighting drugs at the regional and international level. [passage omitted]

Musa Confers With Israeli Central Bank Governor

NC1905113693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Israel's Central Bank Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel, who is visiting Cairo.

Afterward, Frenkel said they discussed boosting economic ties between Egypt and Israel, the importance of developing economic cooperation among the region's countries, and also issues relating to the multilateral negotiations.

Sidqi Receives IMF Officials, Discusses Agreement

NC1805153093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today received Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan, IMF executive director for the Middle East, who arrived in Cairo today. Central Bank Governor Dr. Salah Hamid attended the meeting.

The two sides reviewed Egyptian-IMF relations as well as preparations for signing a second agreement between Egypt and the IMF. The agreement will help Egypt continue its economic reform program and allow it to negotiate with creditor countries with a view to writing off another 15 percent of its foreign debts.

Albanian Economy Minister Arrives for 4-Day Visit

NC2105032993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—Albanian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Artan Hoxha arrived in Cairo this evening on a four-day visit.

While in Cairo, the Albanian minister will hold talks with Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, on ways to consolidate economic and trade ties between Egypt and Albania.

Yemeni Official Views Ties, Talks After Meeting Musa

NC1805114493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Ahmad Dayfallah, under secretary of the Yemeni Foreign Ministry, who is visiting Cairo.

The Yemeni official said Yemen supports Egypt's efforts to restore Arab solidarity and unify the fold. He added that the contacts between President Husni Mubarak and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih are an important step toward consolidating bilateral ties and that the contact between the two presidents yesterday comes within this context.

He said his talks in Cairo dealt with enhancing Egyptian-Yemeni relations and with preparations for the meeting of the joint higher committee between the two countries, due to be held in Cairo this year, chaired by the two prime ministers.

He said there is coordination between Egyptian and Yemeni officials to confront terrorism, because Yemen is against any form of terrorism and is eager for the Arab region's stability and security.

Cuban Economic Official Comments on Visit, Departs

NC1805124893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—Ernesto Melendez, Cuba's minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, left Cairo this morning for home after a three-day official visit to Egypt. Speaking before his departure, the Cuban minister noted that his talks with the officials in Cairo had dealt with ways to bolster cooperation between Egypt and Cuba in all political and economic fields. He added that he had discussed with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa current international problems and South-South cooperation. He noted that he had signed several agreements to exchange agricultural expertise between the two countries, stressing that Egypt has made great progress in this area, particularly in the field of land reclamation and irrigation methods. [passage omitted]

Israeli Central Bank Governor Arrives for Talks

NC1805210093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2002 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—Israel's Central Bank Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel arrived in Cairo this evening on his (?first) official visit to Egypt at the invitation of the Egyptian Central Bank governor.

During the two-day visit, the Israeli official will hold talks with economic and financial officials on issues of concern.

He said upon arrival that he will hold talks with Central Bank Governor Salah Hamid and other officials to pave the way for reopening five branches for the Arab Real Estate Bank in Jerusalem, Gaza, Nabulus, Jericho, and Bethlehem. The branches were closed following the 1967 war.

He said that in his capacity as head of the Israeli delegation to the working group on development and economic cooperation, emanating from the multilateral talks, he will meet with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to discuss economic cooperation among the states of the region.

The Israeli official was received by Deputy Central Bank Governor Muhammad al-Barbari and Israeli Ambassador to Egypt David Sultan.

Economic Team To Discuss Cooperation With South Africa

NC2105110293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—An Egyptian economic delegation led by Businessmen's Society President Sa'id al-Tawil will visit South Africa 3-10 July.

Al-Tawil said the visit—the first of its kind—is in response to an invitation by the South African Chambers of Commerce and Industry to explore prospects for cooperation.

He said the delegation will discuss the possibility of joint investment ventures and trade.

During the visit, al-Tawil added, an office for the National Bank of Egypt will be opened in Johannesburg. He noted that Egypt Air already has opened an office in that city.

The Egyptian delegation consists of a number of businessmen and bank officials.

Team Leaves for Tokyo Multilateral Talks on Environment

NC2105110493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 21 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation led by Ambassador Hajar al-Islambuli left Cairo for Japan today to attend the meetings of the multilateral Working Group on the Environment.

The meetings are scheduled to open Monday in Tokyo. The participants will discuss cooperation in protecting the environment and ways to get rid of nuclear and industrial waste.

Ambassador al-Islambuli stressed that progress concerning regional cooperation is closely linked to progress in the bilateral talks. [passage omitted]

Parliamentary Delegation Departs for Russia, Azerbaijan

NC2005084293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1738 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—An Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by Ahmad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, left Cairo this afternoon for Moscow on a week-long visit to the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan.

'Abdallah said that the visit is part of Egypt's efforts to improve its ties with Russia and the CIS, particularly the Islamic republics. He said he will attend a conference entitled "Russia, the Arab World, and Economic Cooperation," which will open on 21 May. The two-day conference will examine ways to improve economic ties between Russia and the Arab world, particularly Egypt.

'Abdallah said he then will visit Azerbaijan in response to a parliamentary invitation. While in Azerbaijan, he will discuss bilateral relations, regional problems—particularly that of Nagorno-Karabakh—as well as the situation in the CIS and East Europe.

Delegation to Human Rights Parley Refutes Torture Charge

NC1905111493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0904 GMT 19 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—The Egyptian parliamentary delegation to the International Symposium on Human Rights, which begins its meetings in Budapest later today, says the constitutional and legal system in Egypt is based on several principles that cannot be underestimated. Foremost among these principles is safeguarding citizens' freedom and rights.

The delegation, led by Dr. Fawziyah 'Abd-al-Sattar, chairwoman of the constitutional and legislative affairs committee of the People's Assembly, says Egypt has moved quickly in the past 10 years toward political openness and greater democracy to achieve greater things for the Egyptian citizen. This was contained in the general statement and memorandum prepared by the Egyptian parliamentary delegation to refute the allegations made by Amnesty International in its October 1991 report that Egypt does not apply the international agreement against torture and practices it against those detained under the emergency law. The statement and the memorandum have been circulated as official symposium documents.

The memorandum said the Egyptian Government has sent a detailed response to the Amnesty International report, which was published under the headline "Egypt, 10 Years of Torture." The response was sent via the

Egyptian Embassy in London, but Amnesty International has not published it yet. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister on Terrorism, Drug Smuggling

NC2105110693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0741 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has said that his ministry's current policy toward terrorism and extremism is essentially based on confronting only outlaws.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the minister praised the public for helping police combat terrorism and handing over some fugitives to the security forces, as happened in Abu Tij, Asyut Governorate.

He said the law does not allow issuing licenses for machine and sub-machine guns, stressing that this law now applies to all people without exception.

On the activity of the Interior Ministry's Public Funds Directorate, al-Alfi said there will be no cover up for corruption at any level. All citizens are equal before the law, and the results of this will appear in the coming days, he said.

On the fight against drugs, the interior minister explained that the security forces have tightened control on entry points to prevent all methods of drug smuggling. He said that large quantities of drugs recently have been seized.

Al-Alfi said morality police are playing an active role in preventing the spread of vice and maintaining the values, scruples, and good conduct of civilized Egyptians. He said our religion advocates a morally clean society and fights vice with all means.

Minister Says Tourism Affected by Media 'Exaggeration'

NC1905162893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1346 GMT 19 May 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation, has affirmed that tourism in Egypt has been hit recently because of foreign media exaggeration in conveying an untrue picture of the recent events, which are minor in comparison with what happens in any other country.

He noted that such incidents happen in Germany, England, and Florida but are not exaggerated as in Egypt. He said that the tourism and information ministries are cooperating and coordinating to confront this trend in Western media.

This came in the tourism minister's speech at the opening of the "Arab Tourism" seminar organized by AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in which he represented Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. [passage omitted]

He praised the public's responsiveness to the security agencies in arresting the terrorists who sought to strike tourism as part of a great conspiracy to harm national economy and seize power. He asserted that such terrorists have no influence or base in the Egyptian street.

He announced that the ministry has managed to obtain $130 million in financing from the World Bank to implement infrastructure works of new tourism complexes taking into consideration all environmental conditions. [passage omitted]

Weapons Shipments Enter Upper Egypt Through Sudan

NC1905085693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 May 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abduh Hasanayn]

[Text] Asyut—A political source here has confirmed that three shipments of automatic weapons and ammunition were brought in to Upper Egypt's governorates via Sudan during March. The source said three states donated the shipments.

He said the three shipments have caused the price of an automatic rifle in the south of Upper Egypt to fall from 4,000 to 1,600 pounds. The source said terrorist groups used the weapons and ammunition to carry out a massacre at Sanabu on 4 May last year and other terrorist operations in which 112 people were killed or wounded.

He said weapons from the three shipments were also used in the terrorist activity in al-Qusiyah and al-Badari that left two officers and a police sergeant dead.

Death Penalty Sought for Suspects in Attack on Minister

NC2005200293 Paris AFP in English 1921 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 20 (AFP)—The military prosecutor Thursday [20 May] called for the death sentence against Muslim militants charged with attacks on tourists and a bid to assassinate the information minister, the Egyptian press reported.

The trial of the 14 suspects, four of whom are on the run, opened May 8 and is to resume Saturday, the press said in the early Friday editions.

The men are charged with the failed attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif on April 20, as well as bombings at tourist sites and the killing of a police officer in March.

The prosecutor denounced the militants as "heretics" and "puppets".

He urged the court to issue a verdict "aimed at putting an end to crimes caused by terrorism."

President Husni Mubarak, resorting to emergency laws in force since 1981, last year ordered the transfer of the trials of Muslim militants to military courts, which decide more quickly and hand down harsher sentences than civilian courts.

Sixteen death sentences have been passed by the High Military Court, seven in absentia, but none has been carried out.

More than 140 people, including three foreign tourists, have been killed in a fundamentalist campaign across Egypt since March 1992.

Islamic Group Members Arrested; Investigation Starts

NC1805160193 Cairo AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH in Arabic 16 May 93 p 1

[Text] The Higher State Security Prosecution Office has started to investigate a new case involving 40 defendants, members of the Islamic Group, from the areas of Shubra, Qalyub, Bahtim, and Banha.

The state security intelligence body arrested them on charges of joining an organization that aims to destabilize security, is hostile to the basic principles of the regime, and holds secret meetings to propagate the Group's ideas.

Copt Killed by Muslim Fundamentalists Near Asyut

NC1905200493 Paris AFP in English 1907 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, May 19 (AFP)—Gunmen on Tuesday shot dead a Christian Copt in the Upper (southern) Egyptian province of Asyut, a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold, police said Wednesday.

The unidentified assailants targeted Filtis Butrus, a key member of the al-Muti'ah community near the town of Asyut 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Cairo, killing him instantly.

Police said the attackers who managed to escape also wounded a Muslim passerby who tried to stop them.

Asyut's police chief, General Mahmud 'Antar, told reporters it was probably a case of revenge.

The region has witnessed several vendettas between Muslims and Copts, who make up 40 percent of al-Muti'ah's population.

'Antar said an investigation into the matter was underway.

Terror Suspect Dies After Extensive Surgery

NC1505151393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Asyut, 15 May (MENA)—Yasir Muhammad 'Atiyah, a terrorist who sustained gunshot wounds during a shoot-out last week, died today. 'Atiyah and another terrorist killed Imam Khattab, assistant intelligence chief of al-Badari, last week.

Assistant Interior Minister Major General Mahmud 'Antar announced that Atiyah had undergone a number of operations and that policemen donated five liters of blood to save his life.

It is worth noting that the deceased terrorist was one of the most dangerous terrorists in Asyut. Investigations indicate that he took part in the assassination of Maj. Gen. Muhammad al-Shimi, assistant chief of Asyut security, last month and that he helped plan and execute several terrorist operations in south Egypt.

Mubarak Urged Not To Run for Third Term

NC1905094693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 May 93 p 9

[From the "Forbidden" column by Majdi Muhanna]

[Excerpts] In 7 May issue of AL-MUSAWWAR, Makram Muhammad Ahmad wrote an editorial called "Why Does Mubarak Hesitate?" Ahmad was referring to President Mubarak's hesitation to name himself as a candidate for a third presidential term, beginning in November.

This is probably the first time I heard or read that President Mubarak is hesitant to announce his candidacy and stay in office for 18 full years. The president has not so far said or even insinuated that he has no desire for reelection, unless Ahmad is letting us in on a jealously-guarded secret.

I beg and beseech President Mubarak to hesitate over this renomination. I hope against hope that the thought of hesitation has actually crossed the president's mind, even for a fleeting second.

If the president actually hesitated, as the AL-MUSAWWAR chief editor would have us believe, I pray to God that his hesitation will grow day by day until he decides not to run for a third term, which will make him the first president in the country's history to leaves the presidency of his own volition. [passage omitted]

The greatest achievement that the president can accomplish and the greatest service he can offer the Egyptian people is to introduce sweeping changes in the government apparatus in the coming few months, open the doors of democracy for a democracy-hungry public, change the constitution to allow every citizen to announce his candidacy for the presidency without anyone's permission or sponsorship, allow the free publication of newspapers, and clamp down on corruption everywhere.

Do not worry, Mr. President, about terror and extremism. Such changes, alone, are sufficient to uproot terror.

Sir, are you still hesitant, or is this hesitation really a rumor, a mirage, and a gimmick to make us beg you to stay on as our leader and forgive us for our sins?

Education Minister Says Foreigners Not Writing Textbooks

NC1805095993 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 May 93 p 4

[Report by Mustafa Bilal]

[Text] Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has affirmed that his ministry did not and will not permit foreign education experts to take part in writing school curricula or in amending or developing textbooks, particularly on religion, the Arabic language, and social studies, such as history and geography. He added: These subjects form the core of our doctrine and heritage and the ministry will continue to consolidate the national orientation in the curricula and deepen pupils' sense of loyalty to the homeland and to Arabism.

In remarks to AL-AKHBAR, the education minister noted that the role of the foreign experts working with the Curricula Development Center is confined to applying scientific methods to drafting the curricula and textbooks and to imparting modern techniques to the national experts, particularly in science, mathematics, and some books on environmental activity. He pointed out that when preparing the new curricula for basic education, the ministry aims to include all the battles of Prophet Muhammad, may peace be upon him, to strengthen the children's ties with their Islamic history, and their sense of loyalty to the homeland.

Libya

Chadian Prime Minister on Official Visit to Tripoli

Meets With GPC Secretary

LD2005133293 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 May 93

[Excerpts] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee had a meeting this morning with Chadian Prime Minister Fidel Moungar, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted] During the meeting, they examined and discussed the strengthening and promoting of relations of brotherhood and friendship existing between the two fraternal peoples. They also discussed a number of African and international issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Confers With al-Qadhdhafi

LD2005213793 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 May 93

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] received brother Fidel Moungar, the Chadian prime minister, who is on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah these days. [passage omitted]

Support for Libya Affirmed

LD2105102493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, 21 May—Interim Chadian Prime Minister Fidel Moungar, currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah, has emphasized the depth of fraternal relations existing between the two fraternal peoples.

In a statement released to JANA, Moungar said that his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah falls in the context of the solidarity of the Chadian people with the Great Jamahiriyah in its confrontation with the neo-colonialist campaign. He stressed that the two countries were an extension to each other. Brother Fidel expressed in his statement the depth of the relationship and appreciation harbored by the Chadian people for its brother people of the Great Jamahiriyah, and he stressed that this visit would contribute to the strengthening of the brotherly relations and reinforce the scopes of cooperation existing between the two countries, for the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Moungar said that after the national dialogue congress—which had been convened—we have chosen to go to the Great Jamahiriyah to affirm the ties of friendship that has been linking us to it since time immemorial, and to manifest our wish to reinforce and continue this fraternal relationship. He pointed out that the visits by President [General] Idriss Deby and the official delegations to the Great Jamahiriyah were for the strengthening and bolstering of the ties of friendship existing between the two fraternal peoples.

Brother Fidel welcomed the move of the sons of the Arab Libyan people to invest in Chad, stating that this move met the wish of the parties to our national congress. He affirmed that all conditions helped this move, including close ties between the great Jamahiriyah and Chad, and the existence of virgin land in Chad—which should be reclaimed for the benefit of both the Arab Libyan and Chadian peoples.

Morocco

King Receives Newly Appointed Governors, Officials

LD1605030893 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 May 93

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness King Hassan II, flanked by His Highnesses Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Moulay Rashid, this afternoon received a number of employees, directors, and new inspectors at the Interior Ministry and new directors at the Ministry of Information at the royal palace in Rabat, where his royal highness handed them their appointment documents.

[Unidentified correspondent] The matter concerns the following:

Abderrahmane Benomar, inspector at the Interior Ministry;

Allal Saadaoui, governor of Tangiers province;

Ahmed Bousfiha, governor of Ouarzazate province;

Mohamed (?Jabli), governor of Hoceima province;

El Alami Zbadi, governor of Figuig province;

Mohamed Jarmouni, director-inspector general for local finances at the Interior Ministry;

Omar Bahraoui, local authorities inspector at the Interior Ministry;

Shikib (?El Arous), information director at the Ministry of Information;

Mahieddin Hamzaoui, director of general affairs at the Ministry of Information. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Addresses Arab Lawyers' Union Congress

LD2005211393 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 May 93

[Excerpts] The 18th congress of the Arab Lawyers' Union was inaugurated today in Casablanca and will continue till next Sunday with the participation of more than 1,000 lawyers from the various Arab countries, and representatives of a number of regional and international organizations. The proceedings of this congress will be conducted under the slogan: For the restoration of Arab solidarity and re-enforcing democracy and human rights to face up to the perils threatening the Arab nation. His Majesty King Hassan II, may God made him victorious, addressed a speech to the conferees. It was read by Abdelhadi Boutaleb, the king's adviser.

[Begin Boutaleb recording] [passage omitted] Almighty God has undertaken to defend those who believed and promised them victory and support. Islam recognized adequate rights for the individuals centuries before they were recognized by international conventions. It also ordained their respect and those entrusted to ensure them both at the level of the responsibility and its honor. [passage omitted]

This will not be achieved unless the conditions of liberalism and objectivity are present, restrictions are cast aside and solidarity and dialogue is adhered to on the path of struggle. [passage omitted]

Raising the standard of the profession will not be achieved without strengthening knowledge in training, possessing the signs of competence in practice and proficiency in creativity, strength of ability to move along with the dynamism of scientific research and the spheres of comparative law and preparing future generations to bear the torch of your noble mission within the framework of which the role of the Arab Lawyers' Union is one of support to face the requirements of economic and social development and move along with the features of development and progress witnessed in Arab societies. [passage omitted]

Honorable gentlemen, the Arab nation expects much from your congress and pins great hopes on the resolutions and recommendations that will result from it, which will be inevitably at the level of Arab ambitions and pan-Arab aspirations. May God help you to succeed in the most upright and useful ways, help you to enter the most favorable and correct paths, and surround your work with good fortune and success, harmony and deliverance. God is omniscient and wise. God will guide whoever He wants to the right path. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sudan

Regime Blames VOA, U.S. Congressman for 'Fabrications'

EA2005203093 Khartoum SUNA in French 0930 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA)—Sudan has categorically denied the allegations and fabrications attributed to a U.S. congressman, Mr. Frank Wolf, about what he described as the enslaving of women and children in southern Sudan and then sending them to Libya.

A responsible source has told SUNA that the allegations are just lies disseminated by quarters hostile to the Sudanese people and their Islamic orientation. The false allegations aim at distorting Sudan's image and obstructing the peace process, the source said.

The source condemned the method adopted by the hostile quarters, condemning it as "unacceptable and crude." Mr. Frank Wolf is well known for his suspect links with the John Garang faction, the source added. It went on to say that the allegations were trivialities the congressman continues to thoughtlessly disseminate.

The source said such feverish activities had been initiated to coincide with the salvation revolution's efforts to achieve peace in southern Sudan through the Abuja negotiations. It said those quarters had accordingly started obstructing the peace negotiations with the aim of depriving Sudan of all chances of achieving development and progress. The source added: The ugly faces of those quarters have been unveiled while pretending to be concerned with the realization of peace in Sudan, but they did the opposite all along during the Abuja talks, he added.

Referring to the allegations, the source said Sudan was guided by Islamic prescriptions and could not possibly engage in such practices.

The source said the U.S. ambassador to Sudan had denied that his embassy had prepared the report on so-called slavery in Sudan. It is worth noting that the VOA quoted Mr. Frank Wolf in its report on Sudan, but the U.S. ambassador to Sudan has reaffirmed that his embassy was not the source of the report.

[Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic at 0430 GMT on 20 May reports: "The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers has denied the biased allegations against the Sudanese people and their civilizing trends made by quarters hostile to the national salvation revolution's policies with the aim of marring Sudan's reputation and impeding its serious peace efforts. The general secretariat said the VOA had quoted U.S. Congressman Frank Wolf telling loathsome lies about the enslavement of women and children from the South to make them work in the North and sending others as slaves to the Libyan Jamahiriyah. The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers has condemned such methods, which have come to be exposed and (?tarnished), particularly as the one called Frank was known for his suspect links with the rebel movement."]

Foreign Minister Discusses Talks With U.S. Ambassador

EA2005203593 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA)—Mr. Donald Peterson, the U.S. ambassador to the Sudan, has lauded the extension of the cease-fire between the government and Garang's faction. He did so today during a meeting with Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, the foreign minister, with whom he reviewed the results of the latest talks in Abuja and the government's real efforts and endeavors throughout the talks to arrive at a final and comprehensive solution to the southern Sudan question. The two also reviewed relations between the two countries, the coordination and [word indistinct] resumption of the talks [word indistinct] Sudanese as soon as possible with aim of resolving all the [word indistinct] issues.

Khalifah Gives News Conference on Abuja II

EA2005210293 Khartoum SUNA in English 1717 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA)—Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) and chairman of the government's delegation to the Abuja peace talks, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has affirmed that the negotiations were positive despite the pressure exercised by some countries to make them fail. In a press conference he held at the Friendship Hall Thursday [20 May], Khalifah explained that the two parties to the talks had agreed upon some principal points, such as the units of Sudan and division of authorities, pointing out that there are some procedural points that the two parties did not reach an agreement upon. Khalifah added that the points of differences were about distribution of powers to the states and the central government, explaining that the powers related to the sovereignty of the states cannot be entrusted to the states, as the outlaws negotiators demanded.

Khalifah revealed that preparations have been made for holding a meeting between him and John Garang, but he refused to meet Garang because Garang hindered the progress of the talks and signing of the joint communique. [sentence as received] Khalifah stressed that John Garang did not want peace and he was not keen to make the talks a success, as became clear from his tours to America and Britain in the meantime of the negotiations convocation and his statements in which he demanded existence of international observers. [sentence as received]

Khalifah disclosed that some contacts between the Egyptian ambassador to Nigeria and the outlaws' delegation has been done to make the negotiations fail, in addition to a document sent by Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi [brother of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi] to a member of [the] Garang faction delegation, Dr. Peter Kong, in which al-Mahdi urged him to work for the talks' failure.

He said that he touched a confirmed desire by some negotiators of the outlaws' delegation, particularly the warriors, to achieve peace.

Khalifah added that the outlaws' delegation came to the talks with unfree will and with preconditions dictated by John Garang, such as the establishment of a secular state and confederalism, pointing out that the government delegation rejected these preconditions.

He expressed government's readiness to continue negotiations on 19th June next in Abuja so as to attain permanent peace.

Meanwhile, Khalifah said that the ongoing peace talks between the government and the unified outlaws' movement in Nairobi are progressing well, pointing to [the] existence of joint confidence between the two parties.

Opposition Figure Mocks Regime Effort To 'Escalate Crisis'

NC1805150793 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 May 93 p 9

[Excerpts] Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid, member of the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces, has stressed that 'Umar al-Bashir's call for declaring general mobilization in Sudan and his escalation of the dispute over Hala'ib lack the most basic political, economic, social, and military prerequisites. He added that this call is nearly impossible to implement and is only aimed at serving political objectives that have nothing to do with the Hala'ib issue.

He said: Al-Bashir himself is well aware that his regime lacks the conditions for declaring what he termed a general mobilization in Sudan. I believe that this call is primarily addressed to the [Sudanese] People's Liberation Movement to pressure it to make concessions in the Abuja talks. It is also aimed at "preparing" the Sudanese people to accept a new declaration of war in the south should the Abuja talks fail. At the same time, al-Bashir is quite aware of the fact that the Hala'ib issue will never be resolved militarily. The Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are capable of resolving it in a civilized manner but the Islamic Front's government wants to escalate the crisis in order to resolve its aggravating internal problems and evade the increasing popular siege. More than that, the Front will not move any forces to Hala'ib despite all its clamor and shouting. Egypt has repeatedly said it will never fight Sudan. [passage omitted]

Brig. Gen. Khalid said that information received by the Legitimate Command confirms that the Front's security organs have submitted a report to Sudanese Government leaders stressing that their policy of inciting national feelings over the Hala'ib issue and a "foreign invasion" will not elicit a popular response. Hence, the Front has started to back down on the general mobilization and the launching of war in Hala'ib as it claimed it wanted to do.

He added: The regime is suffering from a continuous collapse. If it believes that it can find a way out of its crises in marches, wars, and the Abuja talks, then it is deluded. The only way out for Sudan and the Sudanese people is to bring down this regime and completely uproot and eliminate it.

UN Protests Looting of Relief Train

NC2005185793 Paris AFP in English 1807 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, May 20 (AFP)—The United Nations has protested to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) for looting relief supplies off a rail convoy headed for Waw, capital of Bahr el-Ghazal state in civil war-torn south Sudan.

A U.N. official in Khartoum on Thursday [20 May] told AFP that 50 tonnes of relief food supplies were offloaded at gunpoint by an SPLA commander between Mabyor and al-Rayat in Bahr el-Ghazal, before he allowed the train to move on to Waw where it arrived Tuesday.

The official said the United Nations was expecting a reaction shortly from the SPLA's relief and rehabilitation authorities and warned that the United Nations "shall take further action as required."

The use of the railroad link to Waw for the transportation of emergency commodities was agreed upon for the first time last December when the Sudanese government, the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) factions and U.N. representatives met in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

The U.N. World Food Programme [WFP] in Nairobi on Wednesday stated that the rail corridor had been calm except for two incidents, one where quantities of relief food were forcefully demanded, and the other when armed people in an area held by the SPLA looted two food wagons.

The two-train convoy, made up of 35 wagons, dropped off a total of 1,000 tonnes of cereals, lentils and vegetable oils to people in 16 towns along the 350-kilometre (220-mile) rail corridor, the statement said.

A Nigerian-mediated bid to bring about a peace settlement between the Khartoum government and the SPLA collapsed this week, with the warring parties unable to reach agreement on the imposition of Islamic shari'ah law in Sudan and each blaming the other for intransigence.

The SPLA has been fighting for a decade to end Muslim domination of the mainly animist and Christian south by the Arabised north.

The U.N. official also told AFP that U.N. chartered-planes were flying on a daily basis from Lokishogio in north Kenya to SPLA-held Kongor, Ayod, al-Yoi and Wa'th in Upper Nile state during daytime as security conditions would not permit overnight flights.

Other WFP and U.N. Childrens' Fund (UNICEF) flights were going to Akobo and Nasir in Upper Nile, though tribal fighting is taking place in Nasir, which is under rebel control, the official said.

The United Nations also carries out flights to the government- held towns of Bor, Torit, Kapoeta, Yirol, Pachala and Pibor in Equatoria and Upper Nile, in addition to such towns as Mayom, Akun and Theit in Bahr el-Ghazal state and to Juba in Equatoria on a daily basis from Khartoum, the official said.

Truck convoys are maintained to Abyei and Meiram in South Kordofan where the relief is delivered to the Sudan Council of Churches and the Sudanese Red Crescent, which undertake the distribution.

The official said the United Nations had not been able to reach agreement with the government on strengthening the presence of non- governmental organizations in those two towns, where he said the medical situation was "quite weak."

Islamic Front Leader Receives Jordanian Group

EA2005221593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1743 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA)—Secretary-general of the Popular Arab and Islamic Congress Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi met Thursday [20 May] with the visiting Jordanian delegation led by Sulayman Arrar. SUNA learned that the meeting reviewed the Sudan's role as strategic side to the language and cultural of the Arab and to the Islamic religion in addition to the Sudan's situation which connected with the Arab and African relations [sentence as received].

The meeting also focused on the information, economic and political campaign against the Sudan to avert it from independency and authentication.

The Arab situation was also tackled in the meeting, as well as the importance of the Arab countries' solidarity and to deepen its contacts, particularly between the Sudan and Jordan.

Dr. al-Turabi has urged the Arab countries to defeat the Zionist enemy and the new world order.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Meets PRC Assistant Foreign Minister

JN2005143893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Manama, 20 May (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of foreign affairs, today met with Yang Fuchang, PRC assistant minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Bahrain.

During their meeting, the officials discussed and [word indistinct] the promotion of the bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation since the two countries signed an agreement on economic, trade, and technical cooperation in 1990. The two officials also reviewed means of enhancing bilateral trade, technical, and cultural ties. Furthermore, they examined ways and means of facilitating air links as well as the exchange of visits, since this would make positive contributions toward the enhancement of bilateral ties in the interest of the two countries.

Moreover, the two officials discussed the situation in the Gulf region, the Middle East peace process, developments in Bosnia- Herzegovina, and the role the UN Security Council can play in establishing world security, peace, and stability, as well as the role of the PRC in this endeavor, given that it is a permanent member of the Security Council.

The meeting was attended by Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi, under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 'Abd-al-Rahman Kamal, head of the ministry's international department; Yusuf Mahmud, head of the foreign affairs minister's office; PRC ambassador to Bahrain Wang Xiaozhuang; and the delegation accompanying the PRC assistant minister of foreign affairs.

Kuwait

Iraqi Border Demarcation Committee Concludes Work

LD2005212493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1812 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] United Nations, 20 May (KUNA)—The international committee in charge of demarcating the border between Kuwait and Iraq completed its work which has enjoyed the approval and the signature of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali at a ceremony held here today.

Egyptian Embassy Asks About Disappearance of Worker

NC2005145893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1134 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 20 May (MENA)—Officials at the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait have held extensive contacts with the United Nations Iraq- Kuwait Observer Mission [UNIKOM] officials and the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry to enquire about the circumstances of the disappearance of Egyptian worker Fathi 'Abd-al-'Azim who works for the Kuwaiti National Oil Company in the Kuwaiti northern border area.

The Egyptian Embassy officials asked UNIKOM to act quickly to reveal the circumstances of his disappearance Monday [17 May] in the northern Khawr in Northern Kuwait, where he and an Indian national named (Samuel Kuti) were conducting checks in the area where the National Oil Company intends to build a fuel station to serve UNIKOM forces.

The Egyptian Embassy sources in Kuwait said that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has been notified of this incident and that intense contacts are being held with Iraqi officials to learn about the circumstances of the Egyptian worker's disappearance.

UNIKOM's official spokesman 'Abd-al-Latif Qabbaj told the MENA correspondent in Kuwait that no information is yet available on the two missing people. He said the Iraqi authorities are searching for the two people and promised to inform UNIKOM of the results.

Several Kuwaiti officials expressed their belief that the two employees might have lost their way and entered Iraqi territory by mistake and that they have not ruled out that Iraqi authorities are questioning them before freeing them.

The Kuwaiti National Oil Company announced yesterday that an Egyptian and an Indian employee have been missing on the Kuwaiti- Iraqi border since Monday.

Oman

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati Visits Muscat

JN2005180993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Muscat, 20 May (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Muscat this evening on a several-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Iranian minister was welcomed upon arrival by Haytham Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id, under secretary for political affairs at the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Khamis Bin-Hamad al-Bitashi, chief of protocol at the Omani Foreign Affairs Ministry; and the accredited Iranian ambassador to Oman.

Qabus To Resume Mediation Between Egypt, Iran

PM1905102693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 May 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Sultan Qabus Resumes His Mediation Between Egypt and Iran"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Sultanate of Oman will begin within days a new round of mediation between Cairo and Tehran within the framework of resuming the sultanate's endeavors to mend the rift and reduce the severity of the tension between the two countries.

Well-informed sources in Cairo have said that the round of Omani mediation, which comes in the wake of the talks held by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak with Sultan Qabus during the first stop on his Gulf tour, confirms that the Iranian position was the first topic on the agenda of the summit held in Oman.

The sources said that the first stage of Omani mediation—described as the self-restraint phase—will center on urging both Cairo and Tehran to ease the media campaign, the exchange of accusations, and the escalation of political confrontation in order to create the right atmosphere to enable the two sides to submit to one another's demands and guarantees and to guarantee their acceptance.

The sources indicated that Sultan Qabus will send an urgent message to the Iranian leadership within days with a special envoy through which to convey the Egyptian demands, which consist primarily in refraining from interfering in states' internal affairs and abandoning aspects of its hegemony over the region.

Sultan Qabus' envoy is expected to visit Cairo to convey the results of the Omani mediation, which, in subsequent phases, will seek the resumption of Egyptian-Iranian meetings at the direct diplomatic level—something which Syria succeeded in achieving in a previous round of mediation but which was suspended because Egypt believed that Iran was the prime instigator of extremist elements, directly or via Sudan, to commit further violent acts in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Saudi Defense Minister Holds Talks With Counterpart

LD1905194193 Riyadh SPA in English 1306 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Doha, May 19, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al'Aziz, second deputy premier and minister of defence and aviation, conferred here today with Qatar's heir apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani on ways of consolidating fraternal relations between the two countries and the situation in the region as well as regional developments. Later Shaykh Hamad hosted a dinner in honor of Prince Sultan and his accompanying delegation. The banquet was attended by Qatari ministers and senior military and civil officials.

Saudi Arabia

Further Reportage on Visit of Iran's Velayati

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Meets Velayati

LD2005214693 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 May 93

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Foreign Minister, had a meeting at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah with His Excellency Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations and issues of concern to the Islamic world. [passage omitted]

Prince, Velayati View Relations

LD2005195193 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 20, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today discussed with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal ways of confronting the brutalities being committed against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The two men also touched on plans for expanding mutual ties and cooperation within the Organization of the Islamic Conference and other international circles, in their meeting which took place in Jeddah.

They agreed that promotion and strengthening of Tehran-Riyadh relations in political, economic and cultural fields would benefit not only the two nations but also the region and the Muslim world.

Velayati, who arrived in Saudi Arabia Tuesday at the head of a delegation, on the first leg of his six-nation Persian Gulf tour, departed for Oman Thursday afternoon.

Velayati on Talks With King Fahd

LD2005123293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia have reached an agreement to expand their bilateral relations in political, commercial, and economic fields.

At the invitation of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Saudi King Fahd will visit our country in the future.

This morning, in an exclusive interview in Holy Mecca, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is visiting Saudi Arabia on the first leg of his tour of Persian Gulf region, said:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the course of our talks with King Fahd, the Saudi Arabian monarch, while conveying to him the message of His Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the esteemed president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we also had discussions regarding bilateral relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and regional and international cooperation. We also talked about cooperation between the two countries in connection with major and fundamental issues of the world of Islam. It was decided that contacts between Iran and Saudi Arabia should be started at higher levels and relations in political, commercial, economic, and oil fields should be expanded. Without a doubt, all-around cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia will be an important factor in the stability of the region and cooperation among Islamic countries within the framework of the Islamic Conference. [end recording]

In the same interview, Mr. Velayati said: Our trip to Saudi Arabia is the first stage of our periodic visit to the Persian Gulf region. This visit will come to an end this afternoon with the last session of talks with the Saudi Arabian foreign minister.

Fahd Reaffirms Noninterference

PM2005131693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Fahd Stresses to Velayati His Rejection of Interference in the Affairs of Others"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, AL-HAYAH—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has expressed the Kingdom's "earnest desire to strengthen relations between all the Islamic states through contacts in various fields to arrive at a common position on the dangers and difficulties facing some Islamic states."

During his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Riyadh yesterday afternoon, King Fahd pointed out that Saudi Arabia's policy has, since the days of its founder King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, been one of "noninterference in the affairs of others and nonacceptance of interference in its affairs by others, and continuous endeavor to promote Islamic solidarity and unite Muslim ranks." He referred to Saudi Arabia's support for all Islamic causes throughout the world.

The Iranian minister conveyed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's interest in "strengthening relations between his country and Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council states." Velayati also praised the Saudi efforts to ensure success of the hajj season. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Sabah Zenganeh, Iranian permanent representative to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has told AL-HAYAH that the talks covered "the need for an effective Islamic move to confront Serbian aggressions." He denied the claim that his country is supplying the Serbs with needed oil. He declined to answer a question about the possibility of Iranian proposals for the settlement of the issue of the three United Arab Emirates [UAE] islands occupied by Iran. He just said that "this issue falls in the context of relations between Iran and the UAE and the way is open for negotiations between the two parties." He expected a meeting to be held between Iranian and UAE officials soon to discuss these matters, and, he said, "we are willing to talk and negotiate." [passage omitted]

Iranian Official on Velayati's Gulf Tour

LD2005195493 Tehran IRNA in English 1651 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Mecca, May 20, IRNA—A ranking Iranian delegate said here today that the objectives of delegation led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Persian Gulf Arab states, are higher than the issue of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. The official told IRNA that the Iranian delegation seeks higher goals for the materialization of wide-ranging relations with Persian Gulf countries.

On misunderstanding with the United Arab Emirates over the islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, he said Iran has always suggested continuation of mutual talks and settlement of existing issues. The Islamic Republic has been pursuing this policy in its relations with its neighbours in the Persian Gulf. "These countries are our neighbours and traditional relations exist between Iran and them. The avenues for expansion of political, economic and cultural ties will be reviewed in the visit," he added.

The delegate elsewhere dismissed claims by some segments of the western and Arab press that the visit of the Iranian foreign minister to the region aims at countering the recent visit of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to these countries. "Our friends in the Persian Gulf know that our visit has been planned within the framework of the expansion of mutual relations," he concluded.

Upcoming Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visit Announced

PM2105112693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 May 93 pp1, 4

['Abdallah Nasir al-Shahri report: "Rafsanjani To Visit Saudi Arabia After Iranian Elections"]

[Excerpt] Riyadh—Diplomatic sources in Riyadh confirmed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will visit Saudi Arabia after the Iranian presidential election campaign next month. He will perform minor pilgrimage and hold talks with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Sabah Zanganeh, Iranian representative at the Islamic Conference Organization (headquarters in Jeddah), said the Saudi invitation to the Iranian President "still stands." [passage omitted]

Iranian Foreign Minister Departs

LD2005142493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 May 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 20 May (SPA)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Jeddah this afternoon, with the delegation accompanying him, after a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Activities of Alleged Saudi Terrorist Supporter

NC1905113593

[Editorial Report] Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic on 17 May publishes on pp 6-10 an approximately 5,000-word report by Hamdi Rizq, Nabil Sharaf-al-Din, and Tariq Hasan on Usamah Bin-Ladin, the Saudi millionaire who according to "informed reports" financed three dangerous terrorist organizations that sought to overthrow the Egyptian regime, particularly the "Afghan Rebels Organization," and currently seek "to strike at tourism, investments, and stability."

Born in Jeddah to the rich Bin-Ladin family of Yemeni origin, "which owns one of the biggest construction institutions in the Arab world," Usamah studied all the extremist sects and the hardline thoughts of Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Salih al-'Uthaymayn. "At the outset of the Islamic jihad operations in Afghanistan and the wide campaign to support the mujahidin, Usamah found his chance to help his stringent associates by opening a big guest house for them in Jeddah, calling it al-Ansar and calling its guests al-Muhajirin."

Usamah took full charge of transporting volunteers to Peshawar via Saudi territory, using the Cairo branch of the Bin-Ladin Institution that facilitated the travel of Egyptian labor to the Gulf states and the "Islamic Relief Bureau," which the Egyptian authorities refused to license because of its objection to its involvement in transporting extremists to Peshawar. The report notes that the "Bin-Ladin Institution supports 15 world health institutions operating in Peshawar." These institutions recruited 700 Arabs and 200 Egyptians, including Muhammad Shawqi al- Islambuli," sentenced to death in Cairo in the Afghan Returnees case.

Working with Palestinian Islamist Shaykh 'Abdallah 'Azzam, Bin- Ladin set up the "Jihad and Relief" guest house in Peshawar to receive volunteers who would arrive after a short stop in the al- Ansar guest house in Jeddah. "The route of this process passed through the unlicensed Cairo office of the Islamic World League, directed by Dr. 'Abdallah 'Umar Nasif," the report notes.

Moving on to his activities in Afghanistan, the report notes that Bin-Ladin obtained permission from Golboddin Hekmatyar to organize an Arab presence in Peshawar with an office. Citing the confessions of the Afghan Returnees defendants, the report adds that Bin-Ladin leased and furnished a multistory house in a Peshawar suburb, gave it a big library, and appointed 'Abdallah 'Azzam as director of the office. "The office set up two committees: The military committee—in charge of military training, and the dismantling, assembly, and use of weapons, and studying Afghanistan topography—was supervised by Hekmatyar's men," and the "administrative committee" was chaired by several people, until Bin-Ladin arrived in late 1985 to reside permanently in Peshawar to finance several projects, including the establishment of two training camps, and to set up an Arab front in Afghanistan.

The report reveals that "Bin-Ladin, 'Azzam, and Hekmatyar headed for Lahore in October 1986, where they met with an American, who later turned out to be a delegate of the CIA sent to support the Afghan rebels against the Soviet presence. The American offered to supply the rebels with defensive and offensive weapons and ammunition. Bin-Ladin undertook payment for shipping these weapons, and the Bin-Ladin Institution shipped tons of weapons and ammunition as well as the bulldozers necessary to dig roads, tunnels, and trenches in the mountains and the electric generators needed for the camps."

The report relates how young Arabs flowed into Pakistan thanks to a propaganda campaign launched by the Muslim Brothers in all Arab states and the role played by Saudi citizen Wa'il Julaydan, who toured Arab states to pay the travel expenses of Arab volunteers.

After giving a detailed account of how the Arab Afghans perfected their combat capabilities over the years, the report moves on to Sudan, where Bin-Ladin "recently allocated $1 million to the transport of Arab Afghans from Pakistan to any place they wanted to go. Two weeks ago, Bin-Ladin participated in transporting 200 Egyptian Afghans to Sudan, in addition to another group of 180 that arrived in Sudan on 10 May."

The report explains that Bin-Ladin has been living in the area near the airport in Khartoum for two years. His institution built the new Port Sudan airport and he has an office in the elegant al- Riyadh neighborhood. In cooperation with the rich people in Hasan al-Turabi's group, Bin-Ladin established al-Shamal Bank in Khartoum, paying $50 million. According to the report, the bank is involved in road and bridge building, in addition to black market activities.

Finally, the report notes his old ties with the Muslim Brothers as well as his relationship with the new extremist groups. It adds that he visited Egypt three times, that he visited Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco, and that he plays a prominent role in supporting religious groups in Lebanon and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the occupied territories.

In conclusion, the report notes that Saudi authorities had granted him a nonreturn visa and that he is now wanted because of the "dangerous role he is playing."

Satisfaction of Libyan Pilgrims Noted

LD2005084993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0540 GMT 20 May 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 20 May (SPA)—[passage omitted] Under the headline "How Long Will the Libyan Regime

Keep On Lying?" AL- MADINAH says "all the statements given by Libyan pilgrims to AL- MADINAH praised the memorable, historical stance of the leader of the Islamic nation, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and all of them expressed their appreciation for the facilities, services, and generous, humanitarian treatment the kingdom offers to God's guests." [passage omitted]

The newspaper referred to statements by Libyan leaders and chiefs praising the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques and refuting the heretical allegations bragged by the Libyan regime during the past weeks in a vain attempt to mislead its citizens about the ramifications of the air embargo imposed by a UN resolution against Libya. [passage omitted]

Yeman

Presidential Council Accepts Government's Resignation

JN2005134393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Sanaa, 20 May (INA)—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, head of the Yemeni Government, today tendered his government's resignation to Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council.

An official source said the Presidential Council accepted the government's resignation in a session this afternoon chaired by the Yemeni president.

The Yemeni president said meanwhile he will make arrangements regarding the formation of a new government. Al-'Attas will most likely be asked to form it again.

More on Resignations

JN2105071893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] The Presidential Council met today under the chairmanship of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. This is the first meeting of the Presidential Council following the House of Representatives' decision today requesting the Presidential Council to continue with its constitutional powers and tasks. During this meeting, the Presidential Council accepted the resignation of the prime minister and ministers. The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that consultations are underway to form a new government.

The chairman, vice chairman, and members of the Presidential Council earlier received the delegation of the House of Representatives led by the speaker of the House. The delegation presented to the brother president the House of Representatives' decision asking the Presidential Council to continue with its constitutional powers and tasks in accordance with Articles 88 and 89 of the Constitution until the House discusses all powers provided by the Constitution.

The chairman, vice chairman, and members of the Presidential Council also visited the House of Representatives. The chairman of the Presidential Council addressed the speaker and members of the House of Representatives. In his speech, the chairman of the Presidential Council briefed the House of its constitutional and national responsibilities in this historic stage in the life of the Yemeni people.

Ex-President Muhammad on Election Results

PM1905091193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with former Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad by 'Ali al-Ruz in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] Former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has said that the Yemeni elections "reflected the real political and social balance of power in Yemen." In an interview with AL-HAYAH he added that democracy "must produce a strong political opposition that embodies the people's aspiration for change." He pointed out that his return to Yemen "is on the cards at any moment." [passage omitted]

On his assessment of the recent Yemeni elections and their results, he said: "Generally, I assess the parliamentary elections held in Yemen in April positively, because they are the first elections to be held after the country's unification. As for their results, I believe they reflected the real political and social balance of power. They also gave the Yemeni people the opportunity—for the first time—to choose their representatives to the parliament." [passage omitted]

He pointed out that the election results "will constitute a new phase in the regime's experiment and the relationship among its legislative, presidential, governmental, and judicial institutions. Just as we called for the elections to be held on the fixed date and urged the masses to participate in them, we also welcomed these elections and their results. And we hope that these results will lead to a brilliant political future for Yemen and our people so as to reflect the Yemenis' strong desire to change their political and economic conditions and contribute to building a unified democratic Yemen."

On the best means to continue the democratic experiment in his country, he expressed his belief that "the political method which chose democracy and adopted it in Yemeni political life did so through conviction. And although democracy is new in present political life, everyone is convinced that it represents a vital necessity for the democratic and peaceful building of the unified state of Yemen. And in order for the Yemeni political method to safeguard democracy and its continuation and development in the future, this process must produce a strong political opposition that embodies the people's aspiration for change and shoulders the task of monitoring political and economic progress in society and corruption cases in the country. Here emerges the importance of the opposition, on the grounds that it is one of the most important and distinctive issues of democracy."

He said that the absence or eclipsing of the opposition for any reason "would lead, as proved by our past experiences, to political instability and perhaps an explosion and bloodshed (...)—options to which I do not believe anyone in Yemen wishes to return." [passage omitted]

On his return to Yemen and whether the recent election experiment prompts it, he said: "My return to Yemen is on the cards at any moment. And there is nothing to prevent me from returning when I want (...). The decision to return is purely personal. As for when, that is a matter for the future."

Asked what political party he would work through if he returns to Yemen, he said: "I have cordial relations with many of the existing Yemeni parties (...). That does not represent a concern for me at present. A man like me, who held the highest of leading posts, is not interested in what party he is going to join, but, rather, in emphasizing whatever achieves and reinforces national unity. There is no preoccupation at present other than this important and vital issue."

British Parliamentarians Conclude Visit

JN1905143193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)—Tam Dalyell and George Galloway, members of the British House of Commons affiliated with the Labor Party, left Baghdad today at the end of a visit to Iraq made at the invitation of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization in Iraq.

During their visit, the two British parliamentarians held talks with Iraqi officials on the ordeal being experienced by the Iraqi people as a result of the continued unfair embargo. Iraqi officials briefed the two British parliamentarians on the great accomplishments realized in the field of development and reconstruction under His Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn.

Official Confers With Polish Parliament Member

JN1905175293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, has affirmed that Iraq, thanks to the leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn and its patient and mujahid people, will continue to hold its head high and to demonstrate steadfastness in the face of the evil, deceitful, and aggressive powers which sought to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and unity.

During a meeting today with Stefan Pastuszewski, member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Polish Parliament [title as heard], and his accompanying delegation, Jasim added: Iraq's experience in all fields of construction has become a splendid example to be emulated by mankind and people around the world, showing how all forms of colonialist hegemony, domination, injustice, and tyranny can be defied. He stressed the importance of strengthening and promoting the traditional ties of friendship existing between the Iraqi and Polish peoples on the basis of respecting the common interests of both countries.

For their part, the head and members of the Polish parliamentary delegation expressed pleasure over their visit to Iraq, noting that this visit will allow them to acquire firsthand knowledge of the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by the continued embargo imposed on them.

The Polish delegation arrived in Baghdad earlier today on a several-day visit to Iraq.

Parliamentary Talks With Polish Delegation Begin 20 May

JN2005173993 Baghdad INA in English 1725 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 20, INA—Parliamentarian talks between Iraq and Poland began here today.

During the talks the Iraqi and Polish MP's [members of parliament] agreed to form a joint committee to develop relations between Iraqi National Assembly (the parliament) and the Polish Parliament.

The head of the Arab and International Relations Committee, who headed the Iraqi delegation, reviewed the impact of the unjust sanction imposed on Iraq.

The Polish delegation expressed its regret for the continuation of the sufferings of the Iraqi people because of the sanction.

They said that they will explain all facts about Iraq to the Polish people in order to take part in lifting the sanction.

UN Urged To Secure Release of Prisoners Held in Kuwait

JN2005195893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1917 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] United Nations, 20 May (INA)—Iraq has urged the United Nations to shoulder its full responsibilities to secure the release of all Iraqis and Arabs held prisoner by the Kuwaiti regime.

In a memorandum addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said the brutal methods of torture practiced by the oppressive authorities of the Kuwaiti rulers against Iraqis—who have been kidnapped—have exceeded all limits. These practices also constitute a flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

The Iraqi memorandum, released here today as an official UN document, noted that on 3 April, a patrol of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission came across two Iraqis in very poor condition. They had suffered injuries and marks of torture could clearly be seen on them.

The two citizens said they were with four others when they were kidnapped by the authorities of the Kuwaiti regime, which practiced the ugliest methods of torture against them, before leaving them in the desert until a UN patrol finally found them.

The Iraqi memorandum said two bodies were found on 4 April and were moved to a UN-sponsored Norwegian health unit. The authorities of the Kuwaiti regime are still holding two more people.

UAE Minister Chided for Inciting Western Powers

JN1905075793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper has said that the fresh attempts by the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to incite Western states against Iraq reflect plain ignorance of developments in the region and the requirements of national and regional security.

In an article today, the paper warns that attempts to undermine Iraq will eventually backfire on those who engineer them, because those people are too small to face the grave threats posed to the region and the Arab nation.

The UAE foreign minister told an EC ministerial meeting in Brussels that Iraq still poses a threat to regional security. Justifying his fears, the minister claimed that Iraq has not fully implemented Security Council resolutions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that such claims reflect plain ignorance of the truth regarding Iraq's implementation of UN resolutions, as well as ignorance of geopolitical and strategic facts in the region and the world.

The paper underscores the failure of the Western coalition and the Damascus Declaration states to design security arrangements in the region, excluding Iraq. They had to recognize Iraq's role in achieving security and facing Western-colonialist and Iranian threats.

AL-JUMHURIYAH highlights the UAE's concern over recent developments and threats facing the Gulf region, wondering whether the UAE foreign minister realizes what the concept of pan-Arab security is all about and how important it is for his country and the Arab nation, bearing in mind that three of the UAE islands have been occupied by Iran.

Analyst Notes Arabs' Confidence in Army's Performance

JN1905104293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)—An Iraqi military analyst has said that electing Iraq president of the meetings of the Arab League's military training board underscores Iraq's prominent status and role in promoting and modernizing the Arab nation's defense mechanisms.

In a statement to INA, the analyst noted that Arab military delegations attending the meetings at the Arab League's headquarters in Cairo have unanimously elected Iraq president, despite the attempts of some conniving regimes to isolate Iraq. This, he added, shows the Arab armies' great respect for, and confidence in, the Iraqi military establishment, as well as their great admiration for the distinguished performance of Iraqi forces. This was borne out by the eight-year national defense war on the eastern flank of the Arab nation against Iranian ambitions, as well as by the contributions Iraqi soldiers have been making to their Arab brothers in the pan-Arab defense trench against the Zionist enemy since the mid-20th century, let alone Iraq's repulsing an evil 30-state coalition assembled in Hafar al-Batin.

Heads of military delegations unanimously elected Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir, assistant chief of staff of the Iraqi Army, to preside over their meetings.

Rubinstein Reacts to 'Abd-al-Shafi's Comments on Talks

TA2005170193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians, has expressed his regret at the remarks by Palestinian delegation head Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi in the news conference that he held today in Gaza, in which he proposed the suspension of the peace talks.

In a statement to our political affairs correspondent, Shlomo Ganor, Rubinstein added that the remarks by the Palestinian delegation head have no relation whatsoever with what actually transpires in the talks, and that he regrets the negative impression which Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's statements may leave on the Palestinians.

Our correspondent adds that the Israeli delegation head had phoned his Palestinian counterpart yesterday and proposed that the dialogue between the two sides continue in a bid to maintain the talks' momentum until the upcoming round of talks is convened next month in Washington.

Paper Drafted on Need for Referendum on Peace Terms

TA2105062593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] In a document formulated in the prime minister's bureau in anticipation of possible coalition contacts with Tzomet and the National Religious Party [NRP], Yitzhaq Rabin asserts that before any peace treaty entailing territorial concessions is signed, it will be put to a decision by the people, either in a referendum or in elections to the Knesset. It has been learned from the prime minister's bureau that this is not a commitment but an option. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

It should be emphasized at the outset that the reference is not to new political principles but to calculated and sophisticated formulations in the coalition agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], which have become rather relevant at this point in time. Rabin did not conceal his opinion this week that his limping coalition might harm the peace process. It is clear to Rabin that even if he were to concoct a magic formula this weekend that would satisfy Aloni and Der'i, it is only a matter of time before the next flare-up, which might come at a less convenient juncture in the peace process.

Aides in the prime minister's bureau would not fax the following two clauses to the Tzomet and NRP liaison men, saying it is not good that too many people should set eyes on the paper:

1. Any peace agreement/peace treaty entailing the concession of territory currently under the State of Israel's sovereignty or rule to another party to the agreement or to some third party will be put to a decision by the people either in a referendum or in general elections to the Knesset and the premiership, which will be held before the peace agreement is signed. The nature of the decision will be coordinated by the two factions.

2. Existing settlements along the confrontation lines—the Lebanese border, the Golan Heights, the Jordan Valley, and the 'Arava—will be strengthened in the framework of the plan to determine areas of national priority endorsed by cabinet resolutions, the Sheves plan.

Aides in the prime minister's bureau reiterated that this is not an explicit commitment but an option. Asked whether the Syrians are aware of the possibility of elections prior to the signing of an agreement, they replied: Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, the head of their delegation, raised the question at one time, and the matter was explained to him in an encounter in the corridor. Rabin considers it important that Damascus realize that he represents a democracy and that al-Asad had better take this into account.

Meanwhile, Labor party members believe that the prime minister will support—or, at least, will not object to—Knesset Member Hagay Merom's draft bill to anchor in legislation a referendum prior to the signing of an agreement.

Going back to the coalition puzzle: It is clear to Rabin that in the current constellation of the coalition, there is no certainty that an agreement with the Syrians containing any element of withdrawal on the Golan Heights will be endorsed by the Knesset. It is enough for SHAS to absent itself from the hall, for Qahalani to abstain, for Ra'anan Kohen and 'Imanu'el Zismann to be taken ill to defeat the agreement. In contrast, a referendum buttressed with a meeting with al-Asad, gestures by Clinton, and Cairo's hallelujah would be endorsed by the Knesset with a large majority.

U.S. Moves in Peace Negotiations Viewed

TA2105073793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 May 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Israel hopes that the peace talks will definitely resume in mid-June, although as things look now there is no cause for excessive optimism. Jerusalem rejects the PLO's demand to renew the dialogue with the United States as a condition for returning to the negotiating table. Israel is looking forward to the contacts with the U.S. peace team, apparently to be held next week, concerning the formulation of a joint Israeli-Palestinian document of principles. The Americans tried to start contacts with the Palestinians on this issue, but except for exchanging some papers, the Palestinians did not agree to enter real negotiations. Nevertheless, to Israel's consternation, the United States agreed to allow the Palestinians to use the term PISGA, Palestinian Interim

Self-Government Arrangements [last five words in English], in the official paper, but this is the only concession so far.

Official sources in Jerusalem would not comment on yesterday's report in THE JERUSALEM POST, whereby Rabin asked to delete from the U.S. bridging proposal the assertion that the permanent arrangement will be based on the principle of territories for peace. The sources would only point out that Israel's very agreement to base the permanent arrangements on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 entails the principle of territories for peace.

As for the situation in the territories, Edward Djerejian's call yesterday to ease the closure came on the heels of similar appeals from the United States, the Palestinians, and international organizations. Israel hopes that the decision to allow inhabitants of the territories to attend prayers on Temple Mount will prevent a wave of international denunciations concerning freedom of worship in the territories.

Taken together, all these points create a rather grim picture, with the key—as is usually the case—being in the hands of the Americans—the same Americans who are beginning to show some activity in the region these days, perhaps in order to get something out of the next round of talks.

Sources Find Hope in U.S.-Palestinian Talks on Document

TA2005085393 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 May 93 p 1

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] In recent days, the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks has resumed its deliberations with the United States about the joint declaration of principles with Israel. The draft sets October 1994 as the date for the beginning of negotiations about the final status of the territories.

Political sources in Jerusalem emphasized yesterday that the fact that two documents are under discussion in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations gives rise to hope that despite the fact that the latest round of talks did not yield any results, the sides are now closer than ever to signing a joint political document.

Confirming the wording of the draft, the Palestinian delegates and PLO sources added that it spells out the principles that will appear in the final peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Israel may agree that the document of principles include an arrangement involving "full implementation" of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Yesterday Faysal al-Husayni denied that the talks with the United States had already started.

Rabin Raps UN for Failure To Aid Palestinians

TA1805105693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin has criticized the United Nations and UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] for failing to come to the aid of Palestinians whose economic situation has declined following the closing off of the territories. Speaking at a meeting of the Labor party Knesset faction, Rabin said despite long lines at UNRWA offices in the territories, the United Nations is not willing to add even $20,000 in additional aid.

The prime minister went on to say that there is freedom of worship for all residents of the territories; therefore, Israel is urgently looking for a way to allow them to visit the holy places in Jerusalem during the closure.

Sources Perceive U.S. Need To Support Rabin

TA2105105093 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 May 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has recently spoken adamantly against the possibility that the U.S. aid to Israel will be slashed. Speaking at a closed meeting in Washington, he said that "as long as Yitzhaq Rabin is conducting peace negotiations, there will be no aid cuts."

Jewish elements have reported that the President's audience was surprised by the force of his remarks and by his determination. In several talks with staffers at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, senior State Department officials said that they, too, are categorically opposed to cuts in aid to Israel.

Political elements in Jerusalem believe that the Americans are very sensitive with regard to Rabin's political standing and that they will make every effort to avoid weakening it. In their opinion, the Americans have accepted the Israeli theory that aid cuts may convey to the Arabs the wrong message of waning U.S. support for Israel, while at the same time harming Rabin's standing in the domestic arena.

Israel's 1994 aid so far seems guaranteed, with the exception of a possible slash of the entire foreign aid plan because of its lack of popularity and because of the need to transfer considerable amounts to CIS. Jewish elements believe that the White House may oppose even the general slash if it affects aid to Israel.

Officials React to U.S. 'Dictate' on Ties With N. Korea

TA2005153793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Israeli officials have said they are puzzled at what they termed a U.S. dictate after the United States had demanded that Israel stop its contacts with North Korea, despite the fact that Washington is holding such contacts.

Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that two weeks ago, Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry deputy director general, made clear to State Department officials that Israel is very concerned with the fact that North Korea has been supplying Iran with missiles with a 1,300-km range and an ability to carry nuclear warheads.

In their discussions with Bentzur, the Americans expressed an understanding for Israel's concerns, saying that any effort Israel makes on this issue would be reasonable and understandable. Later, however, the United States demanded that Israel stop its contacts with North Korea.

PRC Reportage on Shim'on Peres Visit

WA2005131093

For PRC reportage on the visit to China by Shim'on Peres, Israeli foreign minister, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 20 May and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.

Delegation Leaves for Multilateral Talks in Tokyo

TA2005154293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Israel's delegation to the multilateral talks on environment is leaving this evening for Tokyo. The discussions will begin there early next week. Delegation head Yisra'el Peleg expects progress on several issues, such as organizing the joint handling of severe marine contamination in the Gulf of Elat, and cooperation in the struggle against the expanding deserts.

Tourism Agreements Signed With Various Countries

TA2005110593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 93 p C2

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am believes that once Israel and the Arab countries have attained peace arrangements, a common tourism zone could be established that would be jointly marketed and would considerably increase tourism to the area from all over the world.

Bar'am was addressing a dinner banquet held last night at the Moriya Hotel in Jerusalem for members of the official delegations attending a convention on funding and investment in the tourism business. [passage omitted]

In the course of the convention, Israel signed or initialed tourism agreements with Romania, Moldova, Russia, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, and Bulgaria. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Demands Meretz Compromise

TA2005183993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 May 93

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpt] There is no solution to the coalition crisis, the prime minister told Labor Bureau members a short while ago. In his dealings with Meretz, Rabin has adopted the carrot-and-stick tactic, but as you will hear, the stick is rather big and the carrot rather puny. This is what the prime minister told the bureau members: If Meretz thinks that this is the best possible coalition, they have to compromise. It is inconceivable that Meretz should tell Labor to settle all problems with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] on their terms while Meretz itself refuses to broaden the coalition. Approaching other parties—even those which have implied interest—would be unfair under these conditions. I will not talk with other parties as long as Meretz insists that the coalition agreement prevents me from doing it.

They cannot, Yitzhaq Rabin said, have it both ways. If the present government composition suits them, they should compromise. If it does not, they should at least agree to expanding the coalition.

Rabin voiced criticism of the issue over which the crisis erupted. Does the coalition's existence hinge on a crucial issue? No. It is neither a social issue nor a peace-related issue; it is an issue on which the two sides have never agreed—the coexistence of the ultra-Orthodox and the secular societies.

The prime minister went on to state that the opposition is now focusing on SHAS, the most sensitive link of the coalition. He added that in a coalition, there is a need to compromise while taking both sides' red lines into consideration. The prime minister said: When SHAS said that Meretz was unqualified to hold the education portfolio, I said: This is a red line. I refused to fire the education minister. The prime minister added: But it should be one of the two: If Meretz thinks this is the best coalition, they should compromise. If Meretz thinks Rabin will convert to their outlooks, they are wrong, said Yitzhaq Rabin, voicing adamant opposition to the idea that the government should settle for the support of 61 Knesset members. This is what he said: I see no possibility to make the necessary decisions in either the domestic or foreign arenas on the basis of a minority government. Functioning without a majority coalition will be difficult. I understand Meretz, said Yitzhaq Rabin—and this is where the carrot came up—it has its own constituency to think of—but it is vital that we remember and appreciate our partnership with SHAS and the pressure exerted on them. Meretz, too, is under pressure from the public which they represent, Rabin says, but we must not be seen as a left-wing government; we have to be seen as a mainstream government. [passage omitted]

Beilin Denies Rumors of Coalition With NRP, Tzomet

TA2105104393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says he sees no way the National Religious Party [NRP] and Tzomet can join the government because of their position concerning peace. Referring to UN Resolution 242 or territories for peace, he said there is no problem with territories in exchange for peace. Today Beilin is the guest of Ze'ev Schor, head of the 'Emeq Hayarden regional council. Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv spoke to him.

[Begin recording] [Aviv] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that the rumors about coalition contacts between Tzomet, the NRP, and Labor are being spread by interested parties; however, he does not see a chance of these parties—which, in his opinion, are seeking to torpedo the peace process—joining the government .

[Beilin] I do not believe for a moment that the inclusion of the NRP and Tzomet is a serious matter. This government is headed toward peace and not toward getting the peace process stuck. Therefore, I believe all these rumors are being spread by interested parties and not by official elements. I see no chance whatsoever of a coalition between us and elements that want to torpedo the peace process.

[Aviv] Referring to the peace talks, Beilin said it is not Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi who will ultimately decide whether the Palestinians will come to the talks or not. Israel is not courting the Palestinians or the Syrians, but peace, he said.

Referring to the U.S. compromise document, he said there is no problem with territories in exchange for peace.

[Beilin] I must say that I have not heard about such a thing. I find it very hard to believe that this is indeed the case. Territories for peace has been Labor's concept since 1967, and I do not know about a change in this position.

[Aviv] Beilin is currently touring the Jordan Valley. He reiterated Prime Minister Rabin's assertion that the extent of the withdrawal on the Golan Heights will correspond to the extent of peace. [end recording]

Netanyahu, Weizman Open Likud Convention on Golan Heights

TA1605173393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The Likud opened its convention this afternoon on the Golan Heights. The convention moves on to Tel Aviv tomorrow. The central item on the agenda is a new constitution for the party. Neil Sandler sums up the first day:

Likud party leader Binyamin Netanyahu told the delegates that Israel must negotiate a peace agreement out of strength. He stressed that the principle that every people needs a state is no longer valid in today's world. He said the Likud's message must be that the Golan was taken and will not be given back.

Opening the conference was President 'Ezer Weizman. Himself a former Likud member, who joined Labor, he was well received by his former party. He said the Likud could claim several firsts for itself in the Israeli political scene, including the first primaries to elect its leaders and the signing of a peace treaty with an Arab state. Weizman noted that no government in the past 10 years had expressed its objections to the peace treaty with Egypt.

One prominent Likud figure who did not show up at the convention was David Levi. He said this morning that he still believes party Chairman Netanyahu is trying to assume total power over the movement. He sharply criticized the proposed new constitution for the Likud.

Ari'el Sharon, who did show up at the convention, was also critical of the proposed constitution.

The convention now moves to Tel Aviv for two days of talks on issues of substance. The most important is likely to be the proposed Likud constitution, which will give party leader Netanyahu far more power than his predecessors in the Likud.

Convention Ends 'in Uproar'

TA1905045993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 May 93

[Excerpts] The Likud party convention broke up in uproar last night over procedural and institutional issues. Maxim Levi, who was a candidate for chairman of the Central Committee, stormed out of the convention. As he left, he called out to the party chairman, Binyamin Netanyahu: You can turn the Likud into a dictatorship as you see fit. Maxim Levi's projected election as Central Committee chairman had earlier been regarded as a way to placate his brother David Levi, who boycotted the convention meeting.

Early this morning, a decision to elect a new party secretariat was canceled after several members claimed that the vote organized late last night did not allow enough time for an orderly election. The Central Committee is to be reconvened shortly to choose a secretariat.

Among the controversial proposals submitted at the conference was one by 'Uzi Landau that a future Likud government should not honor any agreement signed by the Rabin government which involved withdrawal from territories. [passage omitted] But, 'Uzi Landau's proposal was rejected by party Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu and others, including Knesset Members [MK's] Beni Begin, Dan Meridor, and Roni Milo. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 19 May, in a page-A5 report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal, adds that "MK Roni Milo's proposal to unilaterally implement autonomy in Gaza first was yesterday received with prolonged booing at the Likud convention." According to the report, Milo told the delegates: "'We must propose a political plan which will show the nation that we intend to solve our problems with the Arabs, that we do not intend to perpetuate the state of war.'"]

NRP Submits No-Confidence Motion Over Nurses Strike

TA1705103393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] faction in the Knesset has submitted a no-confidence motion to the Knesset over the long-standing nurses strike. They say the strike has reached the stage of endangering lives, and it is the responsibility of the government to stop it.

Security Forces Capture Suspects in Murder of Attorney

TA2005050393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Security forces have captured the two suspected killers of Attorney Ian Feinberg, murdered in Gaza last month. One of the suspects was a guard at the offices of the Common Market Development Fund, where Feinberg worked. He is said to have even received legal help from Feinberg at one time. Also arrested were three local residents believed to have helped the terrorists.

[A report by David Regev on page 5 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 20 May reports that "the military court in Gaza yesterday meted out eight life sentences to Muhammad 'Ati Kharaz, who was involved in the murder of several local Arabs in the Gaza Strip"]

Defense Sources Deny Plan To Finance Arrow Development

TA1805111193 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 May 93 p 4

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Sari'el Shani and Sharon Sade]

[Excerpts] Israel has decided to finance the Arrow system development, in which it will invest about $1 billion by the end of this decade, says the military and defense weekly DEFENSE WEEK. Israeli sources have vigorously denied the report. [passage omitted]

Senior defense establishment sources have stated that the weekly's report is unfounded and seems to be incorrect. They added that Israel and the United States signed a clear-cut contract in which the Americans pledged to finance 72 percent of the development of the second stage of the Arrow missile project at a cost of approximately $320 million. They noted that this is a signed, inviolable contract and that the Americans have been full of praise for the project's progress in the wake of recent successes.

"The information published in the American DEFENSE WEEK may be a sign of the existence of an anti-Arrow front, led by interested American parties who may be representing the U.S. defense industry, which has been worried about the Israeli project's successful development. This may well be the first shot in a war whose planners intend to resort to disinformation that may bring about the cancellation of U.S. aid in the future," the elements asserted. [passage omitted]

Commentary Finds Autonomy Concept Outdated

TA1705112993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 May 93 p B1

[Commentary by Ran Kislev: "Pulling Our Head Out of the Sand"]

[Text] Overwhelmed by the big crisis threatening the coalition, we almost failed to notice the smaller crisis threatening the continuation of the peace process, in whose name Shulamit Aloni is being asked to sacrifice herself. The latest round of talks in Washington, resumed belatedly and only after a lot of hard work, ended in nothing or, even worse, a retreat from the previous round.

The heads of the delegations talked about "cautious optimism," but this referred to hopes that the talks will resume in three weeks. It does not mean much when measured against the hopes for "dramatic progress" or at least "real progress on matters of substance" mentioned at the beginning of the round.

Nevertheless, if we take a sober look at it and reach the proper conclusions, the ninth round could actually be termed important, not necessarily because excessive flexibility and gestures to the Palestinians in the territories led to failure, as the Likud would have it, but quite the contrary, because the failure stems from the left-wing government's attempt to conduct the process according to the right wing's formulas.

In recent weeks, Yitzhaq Rabin seems to have demonstrated his failure to repeat Menahem Begin's trick of ceding territory that is easier to give up for the sake of other territory. With Begin, a Greater Israel advocate, it was a question of ceding the Sinai in order to hold on to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; with Rabin, it is a question of ceding the Golan Heights in order to put off a final solution in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by continuing to negotiate autonomy—not in the name of ideology, but for the sake of political convenience, more or less along the lines of the Shamir government's formula.

Because the latest round of talks was supposed to deal with matters of substance, it was expected to prove the evident: that the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict lies in the Palestinian problem, that there is no chance of settling the former without a practical solution of the latter, and that vague formulations aimed at perpetuating the current situation for as long as possible are all futile.

Quite a few axioms which had become part and parcel of Israeli policy disintegrated before our very eyes. One of them was not speaking to the PLO. The Shamir government began conducting negotiations with the PLO under a rather transparent guise, and the Rabin government lifted it altogether. Another axiom was an absolute no to a Palestinian state. Although nobody has officially killed this axiom yet, not many remain who believe that our security depends on it.

Our autonomy negotiators are probably aware of this situation, but they are also aware of a serious obstacle on the way to the desired solution: the 100,000-odd Israelis living in an area of which most is intended to become a Palestinian state. Even if such a state ultimately chooses to form a joint framework with Jordan, one can understand their anxiety about the internal crisis that might erupt over this issue. The natural inclination of every politician is to put off crises for as long as possible, and that is what the autonomy formula is meant to do.

People may say this policy resembles an ostrich burying its head in the sand to ignore the dangers, but such a policy is not a recipe for success. Problems must be tackled head-on rather than avoided. This means skipping autonomy and proceeding at once to the second stage: the final arrangement. Thirteen years ago, after Camp David, we could play with autonomy, but today it is too late and even detrimental. If we stop playing this game we can start talking about the real serious issues: the security arrangements we will need, the stages of the withdrawal, the final borders between us and the Palestinians, and the status of Jerusalem.

In the midst of these candid talks, we may come to realize that we have already missed the train, that 100,000 settlers preclude an arrangement, that there is no alternative but going to war once every few years, and that we must come to terms with the occupation: either more intifadah with fewer troops in the field, or less intifadah with fewer soldiers in Nabulus and in Gaza. [sentence as published] That is actually the recipe that the right wing is leading us to.

However, we may also reach the opposite conclusion: that we are not prepared to pay such a price for holding on to territory and that a threat posed by a negligible minority of 100,000 dictating the future of 4 million is not viable.

This is the only decision called for. The only thing we have to do to get to such a decision is to pull our heads out of the sand and stop beating around the bush with the autonomy.

Report Notes Casualties Among Palestinian Children

TA1805134793 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 May 93 p 4

[ITIM Report]

[Excerpts] The Betzelem Center yesterday sent the prime minister its report that between 9 December 1992 and 16 May 1993, during the intifadah's sixth year, 34 Palestinian children were shot dead in the territories by security forces. Some 22 of the fatalities, according to Betzelem, were between the ages of 13 and 16, and 12 were under the age of 13. According to the center, that is the highest number of child fatalities, compared to each of the parallel periods since the intifadah began. [passage omitted]

The center claimed that since the start of the intifadah, 221 children have been killed by security forces, of whom 65 were under the age of 12, and 156 between the ages of 13 and 16.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] does not accept the many Betzelem claims about the killing of Palestinian children. The IDF denies that some of the children Betzelem claims were killed by soldiers died in such circumstances. [passage omitted]

Labor MK, 'Arafat's Brother Discuss Health Issues

TA1805112093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 May 93 p A10

[Report by health affairs correspondent 'Edna Aridor]

[Text] Professor Yoram Lass, a Labor Knesset member [MK], met over the weekend in Cairo with Dr. Fathi 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Red Crescent and brother of Yasir 'Arafat. The visit was arranged by Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who participated in the meetings, which were also attended by Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo.

Within the framework of the visit, which was entitled "Medicine as a Bridge to Peace," the possibilities of Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in the field of health were discussed. Dr. 'Arafat reported on the efforts of the Red Crescent to recruit funds in order to improve the health system in the territories.

MK Lass said that his tour of Palestinian hospitals in Cairo, led by Dr. 'Arafat, raised the problem of there being few places to train Palestinian doctors. He suggested solving the problem by setting up a medical school in the territories. At the end of the tour, MK Lass suggested exploring the possibility of coordinating a visit by a Red Crescent delegation to the territories to study the medical system there. He said that Dr. 'Arafat did not rule out such a possibility. Yesterday, MK Lass called on Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories, to meet with him in order to coordinate the visit.

Finance Minister Describes Investments, Jobs in Gaza

TA1905124193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] The government will invest 15 million shekels per month in the Gaza Strip in an effort to boost local employment and alleviate the economic hardship in the Gaza Strip. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told our correspondent Nisim Qeynan that the government intends to employ 20,000 additional workers in various projects in the Gaza Strip. Shohat says that the government will give financial compensation to industrialists and traders in the Gaza Strip and Israel for losses accrued as a result of the closure. The finance minister met Gaza Strip traders and businessmen, who appraised him of the severe economic hardship in the area. Mr. Shohat said he hopes the investments in the territories will serve as a preparation for the autonomy.

West Bank Arabs Allowed To Attend Temple Mount Prayers

TA2005090093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 May 93 p 10

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] In the wake of unrelenting pressure by the U.S. Administration, the senior political level decided yesterday to allow Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria to attend prayers on Temple Mount on Fridays, beginning tomorrow. At this point, Arabs from the Gaza Strip will not be allowed to get to Jerusalem.

According to the decision, Palestinians will get to Temple Mount from cities in the West Bank aboard buses organized by the Civil Administration.

If tomorrow's prayers proceed uneventfully, Arabs from the Gaza Strip may soon be allowed to get to Temple Mount—amid tight control—aboard buses Israel will put at their disposal.

It should be pointed out that the U.S. Administration and the representatives of other countries have been pressuring Israel to fulfill its promise to allow full freedom of worship to members of all faiths. [passage omitted]

Fatah Wins Bethlehem University Elections

TA2005113693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 93 p A3

[Report by correspondent in the territories Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] Fatah won the elections to the Bethlehem University student council yesterday. The "PLO bloc," made up of Fatah and the Palestinian People's Party, won six of the nine seats on the student council; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] won the remaining three seats.

After the results became known last night, Fatah voters started to dance and chant while others drove in caravans through the streets of Bethlehem honking their horns.

Some 1,304 of the 1,790 students at Bethlehem University are eligible voters. Approximately 90 percent of them cast their ballot in an election campaign described by the university as "hot." [passage omitted]

Correction to Findings of UNDP Report on Territories

TA1605132193

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Findings of UNDP Report on Territories Disputed," published in the 12 May Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 38:

first column, paragraph four, first sentence make read:...of 8-9 percent in 1990 and 1991. In 1990, per... (correcting years)

King To Meet With Clinton in U.S. 18 Jun

JN2005114693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-21 May 93 p 1

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn is scheduled to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the third week of June for discussions on the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-American relations, informed sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the King was scheduled to leave for the U.S. around June 12 and will undergo routine medical check-ups at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, before heading for the meeting at the White House on June 18.

The sources, who preferred anonymity, noted that the King will be leaving Amman shortly after the wedding of his eldest son, Prince 'Abdallah, which is scheduled to take place on June 10.

The French news agency, Agence France Presse (AFP), quoted its own sources as saying that the King had received an official invitation from Mr. Clinton for a meeting on June 18.

What remained unclear was whether an expected government change or cabinet reshuffle would take place before or after the King's visit to the U.S.

The King's meeting with President Clinton will be the first between the two leaders, who have exchanged warm messages in the past four months after the former Arkansas governor entered the White House.

It will also be the first formal visit the king pays to the U.S. after relations were strained as a result of Jordan's perceived support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

During his talks with President Clinton, the King expects to "have a clear picture of [how] Washington is viewing the (Arab-Israeli) peace process and what plans it has to accelerate the pace of the negotiations," one of the sources told the JORDAN TIMES.

Among other topics for discussion are, according to the source, Jordanian-American relations as well as the democratisation process under way in the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

The enforcement of sanctions against Iraq, whose sole official lifeline to the outside world is through Jordan, is also expected to be raised by the American side during the meetings in Washington.

Deputy Questions U.S. Embassy's 'Continuous Interference'

JN2005171993 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 22-28 May 93 p 3

[Text] Deputy Mansur Murad has addressed a question to the foreign minister regarding the U.S. Embassy's continuous interference in Jordanian affairs.

In his question, obtained by SHIHAN, Murad said James Turner, third secretary at the U.S. Embassy in charge of economic policy, is constantly visiting traders in their shops and asking them questions in an attempt to gather accurate information. An example of this is what happened with shopkeeper Dawud 'Abd-al-Hadi.

Murad added that the U.S. Embassy routinely invites certain personalities to dinner parties during which they are asked well-studied questions on domestic conditions. Murad believes that such behavior implies deliberate bad intentions with regard to the security of this country.

Murad recalled that his question is part of his criticism of the U.S. ambassador's role in preparing for the aggression against Iraq.

Murad called for putting an end to these actions in a manner that entrenches the national sovereignty of this country.

Deportee Spokesman Urges Government To Resolve Problem

NC2005121493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Palestinian deportees spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi has called on Lebanon to undertake effective measures at the international level to resolve the deportee issue. He said that it is the duty and right of the Lebanese state to call a meeting of the UN Security Council on the issue, because even though the deportees are inside a buffer zone, they are on Lebanese territory.

Praises Iraqi Stand

JN2005093993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 May 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 May (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has praised the steadfastness of the Iraqi people in their confrontation of the imperialist Zionist aggression. He also denounced the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. In an interview with AL-THAWRAH published today, al-Rantisi valued Iraq's rejection of the capitulatory settlement despite the circumstances imposed on it. He called for establishing an Arab-Islamic alliance to confront the brutal onslaught against the Arab nation. Al-Rantisi recalled the Iraqi missile attack on the Zionist enemy positions and military and strategic sites in Tel Aviv and Dimona during the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

The spokesman for the Palestinian deportees expressed his belief in the inevitable victory of Iraq, Palestine, and the Arab and Islamic nation in the major battle of the nation against colonialism and Zionism. He added that victory will be achieved because the nation possesses the components of faith, determination, and jihad to achieve victory.

Al-Rantisi stressed that all the Palestinian deportees have faith in the inevitable victory and liberation of Palestine from Zionism. He also stressed their determination to return to their motherland, Palestine, despite all temptations, and their rejection of deportation to any Arab or foreign country. He said: We derive determination and forbearance from the steadfastness of our brothers in Iraq in confronting the challenges, tribulation, and pain endured by the brave people of Iraq to protect their country's pride and Arabism. [passage omitted]

Israeli Mechanized Movements, Shelling Reported in South

NC2005184093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Tension prevails in the south amid mechanized movements by the Israeli occupation forces near Kafr Tibnit Crossing, which overlooks al-Nabatiyah.

The occupation artillery this afternoon resumed shelling of southern towns, particularly the town of 'Arab Salim where grave material damage was caused.

Saudis Reportedly Behind AL-SAFIR Closure

NC2105092993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 May 93

[Station commentary: "AL-SAFIR Has Returned and There Is No Harm in Disclosing the Secret"]

[Text] Today AL-SAFIR goes on trial, on the last day of the closure penalty. Yes, in a hasty decision the political leadership imposed the penalty before the trial. It could not delay implementing the royal wish even for one week. The judiciary, like AL-SAFIR and the public, was told to implement the decision. It did. Perhaps the judiciary can now reconsider this decision, even if only slightly to improve the production of the plot. Until these lines were written, the court was the scene of a large demonstration by public figures, opinion makers, officials, and legal personalities. The Lebanese gendermarie were forced to fire in the air and even beat up some newspaper correspondents who had become too emotional.

The timing of this commentary does not permit waiting for the trial's outcome. There is no need, as the outcome is already known. The trial is merely a legal justification by which the government can disguise its weakness and gross error.

What concerns the public and us here at the Voice of the Oppressed is revealing the real reason why AL-SAFIR was closed. Those conversant with the secrets of the Saudi era in Lebanon say a need was felt to make a political decision to reduce the media's role and smother some voices that might disrupt the course of the regional political settlement. It was deemed necessary to protect the secrecy of the rulers' unpublicized moves, particularly as the domestic situation of this or that country does not permit the revelation of secrets or disclosures about subservient relationships, deals, conflicts, and immoral extravagance. Such arguments undoubtedly are acceptable as a necessary prelude by those who want to smother liberties and spread darkness, under the cover of which conspiracies and assassinations are carried out.

Those conversant with the facts say that Shaykh Rafiq al-Hariri is greatly influenced by this Saudi mentality, which does not tolerate opposition. The straw that broke the camel's back and provoked the closure of AL-SAFIR undoubtedly was the political analysis it published in installments on 11, 12, and 13 May. The analysis, carrying the headline: "Saudi Secrets From Behind the Wall of Silence," was translated from the original English version published by a staid British magazine, LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS. AL-SAFIR published it in line with its tradition of bringing to its readers Western analyses and information about regional conditions. Those who read the analysis can easily see that it was the actual secret reason for closing AL-SAFIR. The Israeli document, or paper, against the publication of which Uri Lubrani [coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon] protested, was published previously along with the Lebanese comment on it by the Lebanese French-language newspaper L'ORIENT LE JOUR. It is an Israeli document, the publication of which is not forbidden by Lebanese law. Its publication was a patriotic duty that AL-SAFIR carried out to inform the Lebanese people about what was being secretly prepared for them.

The scandal-revealing analysis carried by LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS was the kind that would perturb the al-Hijaz [Saudi] rulers because it speaks openly about the conflicts within the ruling family and publicizes the new injustices perpetrated by [King] Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz against minorities, freedom seekers, women, and intellectuals. We could fill this commentary with extracts of this analysis if our radio was not planning to broadcast its full text in a special program. To give an example, the analysis reads in part: Since the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a family firm owned, though in unequal shares, by the Al Sa'uds and their Wahhabite [reference to puritanical Muslim sect to which the Al Sa'uds belong] fundamentalist partners, the current fundamentalist onslaught coinciding with conflicts inside the family itself means that the government is in a confused and critical situation, particularly in a country where the government is everything.

On the domestic situation, the analysis speaks of overcrowded hospitals, water shortages, chaotic schools, low wages, increasing unemployment, and a persistent economic recession since 1982 despite the period of postwar prosperity.

The analysis finally comments on the Kingdom's debts, the scandals involving arms deals, bribes, and the grievances of denominational minorities, intellectuals, and women. It examines the conduct of the government's jurisprudents and the Wahhabite distortions of religion. It also publicizes the disagreement between Fahd and his brother [Crown Prince] 'Abdallah, commander of the National Guard. It also includes a section about the founding of the Kingdom, the movement started by 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and the dominance of Najdist [reference to the Al-Sa'uds' original realm] bedouin influence over al-Hijaz cities. Furthermore, one is surprised by figures on the Saudi Army. One official sarcastically points out that 60,000 troops are registered on the military payroll, but that the real number of soldiers is 19,000. We ask: Who gets the pay of the remainder?

This is LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS' analysis, which AL-SAFIR translated and for which it was consequently closed and put on trial.

What is perhaps more serious than Lubrani's and [U.S. Ambassador] Crocker's wishes is the fact that our Saudi-Lebanese prime minister executes orders from this king. This may not end soon.

While AL-SAFIR is again being published, it is very important to let everyone learn the Saudi secrets behind the wall of silence—a headline that closed down AL-SAFIR. Let those who have ears listen and let freedom lovers prepare for a new round.

We seek refuge from God from the Saudi era, the ruler of the oil shaykhs and wealth, and the stark subservience.

Major Administrative Appointments Announced

NC2105032793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session this evening, after which administrative appointments agreed upon among the three leaders were announced.

The most important of these appointments are: Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan as Foreign Ministry secretary general; Rafiq al-Hasan as general director of the internal security forces after being promoted to Major General; Riyad Salimi as Bank of Lebanon governor; Nasir al-Sa'idi as first deputy Bank of Lebanon governor; 'Abduh Bajani as general director of the customs authority; 'Isam Haydar as chairman of the Supreme Customs Council; Muhammad 'Ubayd as general director for media affairs; Khalil Hindi as al-Shamal governor; Farid al-Qurum as al-Biqa' governor; and Dr. As'ad Diyab as president of the Lebanese University.

Paper Says Israeli Practices Might Lead to 'Confrontation'

JN2105111093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 21 May (SANA)—AL-THAWRAH published here today has criticized the repressive, bestial, and coercive practices carried out by the government of Yitzhaq Rabin against the Palestinian Arab people and southern Lebanon. The paper says that these practices, which have become systematic and continuous, are escalating daily. In a commentary under the headline "The Shortest Road to Peace," AL-THAWRAH says: Every day, martyrs fall and many people are wounded by the bullets of Israeli violence in the occupied territory. Every day also, towns and villages in southern Lebanon become targets of bestial aggressions and bombardments.

AL-THAWRAH warns that such a policy might drag the region and the Arabs into a furnace of confrontation. Such a policy, the paper adds, might also make the Arabs opt for and adhere to resistance and to their legitimate right to defend themselves, their existence, and fate.

AL-THAWRAH says: While warning against the consequences and dangers of Israeli escalation to the future of peace, we call on the entire international community, and the American sponsor in particular, to stop this outburst of aggression and law of the jungle, curb the practices of the Tel Aviv rulers, and champion international legitimacy resolutions and human rights.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: When Washington does this and takes matters firmly in hand, Israel will not be able to continue with this belligerency or reject peace. Israel will also have no choice but to recognize all Arab rights. This is the sound and shortest road to a comprehensive and just peace.

U.S. Rejection of Rabin Statement on Jerusalem Urged

JN2005145993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statement, to the effect that Jerusalem will remain under Israeli occupation and that its status is not negotiable, constitutes familiar Israeli defiance of international will and the resolutions of international legitimacy. In fact, this statement provides an even clearer example of Israel's disregard for the peace talks. This statement proves once again that Israel is dealing with the peace negotiations as if it has decided in advance the conclusion of these negotiations. Therefore, it views the rounds of negotiations as merely long or short journeys before reaching the conclusion which it has already set in advance. Otherwise, how can Rabin's assertion that Jerusalem's status is not negotiable be interpreted? The same question applies to the rest of the tracks of the negotiations. In this context, is there any other possible interpretation of Israel's refusal to commit to withdrawal from the Golan Heights before knowing in advance what it will gain in return for peace? The same question applies to its stand on what it calls self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, since it wants to decide the status of these occupied territories during the transitional period in accordance with its own vision before the final status of these territories is decided within the final settlement.

In other words, all signs and Israel's behavior throughout the past nine rounds of negotiations indicate that the Israelis are dealing with the bilateral negotiations only as a means to reach the outcome which they themselves have predetermined for these negotiations; namely, to maintain Israeli control and hegemony over the occupied Arab territories and to reap the fruits of any possible peace. This explains the Israeli maneuvers and procrastination at the negotiating table since the beginning of the Madrid conference. We have frequently said and affirmed that Israel does not want a just, comprehensive peace in the region because this means that it would have to abandon its occupation of Arab territory. We have also said and affirmed that without terminating the occupation of the occupied territories, particularly holy Jerusalem, no peace whatsoever can be established in this region.

Rabin's recent statement to the effect that Jerusalem will remain Israel's eternal capital constitutes a provocation for every Arab and Muslim; it also defies the entire community which has already rejected the annexation of Jerusalem. Besides, this statement shows disrespect for the cosponsors of the peace process, especially the United States, which affirmed in the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference its rejection of Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and considered it a negotiable point.

Hence, Washington in particular and the international community in general are dutybound to declare with the same intensity and defiance as Rabin's declaration on Jerusalem their rejection and denunciation of this declaration. They are dutybound to reaffirm the UN resolutions demanding Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories it occupied through aggression in 1967. Washington's indifference in particular toward Rabin's recent statement on Jerusalem will be viewed by Arabs and Muslims in general as nothing more than collusion with the Israeli position. Such collusion is not in line with the role of a neutral, unbiased partner that the current U.S. Administration has set for itself within the framework of the current peace process.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Moldova

JN2005172593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 20 May 93

[Excerpt] Moscow, 20 May (SANA)—Syria and Moldova have signed an agreement here today establishing bilateral diplomatic relations.

The agreement was signed by 'Isam al-Na'ib and Anatol Sharan [name as received], the two countries' ambassadors in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Recognizes Eritrea, Cables Counterpart

JN2005144493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has sent a cable to Muhammad Ahmad Sharifo, Eritrean secretary of foreign affairs. Following is the text of the cable:

Dear brother, proceeding from the relations of brotherhood binding our two fraternal peoples, I am pleased to convey to you the Syrian Government's decision to recognize Eritrea. On this occasion, we wish your country and fraternal people progress and prosperity, and that they will maintain the gains that they have scored as a result of their struggle and sacrifices over the past decades to attain their freedom and independence. We affirm eagerness to promote and consolidate cooperation between Syria and Eritrea in the interest of both our countries and peoples.

Afghanistan

Further Reportage on Agreements Reached at Jalalabad

Settlement, Pledge To Bring Peace

BK2005153493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Jalalabad, Afghanistan, May 20 (AFP)—Afghan leaders, announcing an agreement under which Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud steps down, vowed here Thursday to establish a durable peace in Afghanistan.

Mas'ud will hand over the Defence Ministry to an interim commission to be headed by President Bohanoddin Rabbani while another commission led by Premier-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar will supervise the Interior Ministry.

The details of the settlement, hammered out in three weeks of talks, were unveiled at a rally attended by thousands of jubilant Afghans outside the former royal palace here.

Several main mojahedin leaders including Rabbani and Hekmatyar were present as the salient points were read out amid shouts of "Allah-o-Akbar (God is Great)."

The leaders have named two ministers from each of the nine parties for the government to be led by Hekmatyar under the Islamabad March 7 peace accord.

A council of mojahedin commanders, two from each province, will be convened to appoint permanent defence and interior ministers before the expiry of the two-month terms of the interim supervisory commissions.

The leaders decided to enforce a ceasefire and set up a commission which is to visit the battle zones to implement the decision speedily.

It was not stated when Hekmatyar and his cabinet, a mix of religious personalities and guerrilla commanders, would start functioning in Kabul, but Hekmatyar said it would be "in days not in weeks."

"We have united and overcome all differences," Rabbani told the cheering multitude. "We shall no longer permit any conflict or bloodshed in Afghanistan on racial, regional, ethnic or religious grounds."

Terming the Jalalabad agreement an "historic" event, Hekmatyar said it would lead to durable peace, a stable government and harmony in Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar said the leaders had also formed an election commission to hold elections for a representative shura or council before the expiry of the current year.

The crowd raised hands and shouted slogans in affirmation when Hekmatyar asked them to make a pledge to stand solidly behind implementation of the agreement reached in Jalalabad.

Rabbani and some other leaders drove to the bordering Pakistani city of Peshawar after the public meeting, while Hekmatyar left for his Charasiab base south of Kabul.

Further on Mas'ud Agreement To Step Down

BK2005114893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Kabul, May 20 (AFP)—Afghanistan's Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, at the centre of a long-running battle with a rival mojahedin leader, has agreed to step down to resolve the conflict, a ministry spokesman announced Thursday.

Mas'ud has agreed to relinquish control of the powerful defence ministry in accordance with a decision reached at a meeting of mojahedin leaders in the eastern city of Jalalabad, the official said.

Speaking at a press conference in the basement of the ministry, spokesman General Yunis Qanooni said Mas'ud would hand over power to a commission, which would run the ministry for the next two months.

Thousands have been killed or injured in fighting between forces under Mas'ud and those of the fundamentalist leader Golboddin Hekmtayar, who was named as prime minister in an agreement signed in March by mojahedin groups but has never taken up the post.

Qanooni said the said the Defence Ministry commission would be headed by President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Hekmatyar will head a commission running the Interior Ministry.

After the two month interim period is up a special council of mojahedin commanders drawn from all 29 provinces of Afghanistan will meet in Kabul and elect the permanent ministers of defence and interior.

Previous agreements have been left in tatters by fighting that has ravaged the capital, taken over by various mojahedin factions from the former communist regime in April 1992.

A decision regarding the other cabinet posts has been reached but no announcement would be made yet, Qanooni said.

Qanooni said a peace delegation is on its way to Kabul with details of a ceasefire for the war-ravaged capital.

"A ceasefire agreement between the leaders has been reached in Jalalabad but the implementation of this process has not started yet," said Qanooni.

A long-range missile landed just 25 metres (yards) from the Defence Ministry while Qanooni's press conference was underway; others landed in the adjacent area killing two civilians.

The Red Cross has put the death toll from the latest round of fighting, which began a week ago, at around 4,000 injured and hundreds killed.

Accord on Cabinet Formation

LD2005173293 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Our correspondent from the city of Jalalabad reports that it now seems that, after many days of meetings, Jehadi leaders have reached a series of agreements on the formation of a cabinet and a cease-fire. The report adds that agreement has been reached on the disputed posts of the Ministries of Defense and Internal Affairs, and progress has also been made on other cabinet posts. It is possible that the cabinet list will be officially announced soon. Some political circles are of the opinion that despite the fact that the jihadi leaders have reached an agreement on some problems, the incorrect positions and policies of Borhanoddin [Rabbani], Sayyaf, and Mas'ud have brought about an atmosphere of doubt in this respect, and have spread clouds of mistrust and suspicion over this issue.

Cabinet List Agreed Upon

LD2005103693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] The conference of leaders of the Afghanistan Jehadi groups, which has been continuing for the past 20 days in Jalalabad in order to solve problems regarding the formation of the Cabinet, has ended and the names of 19 ministers have been announced.

[Unidentified correspondent] On the last day of this conference the details of the agreement of the leaders of the main Afghan groups regarding the formation of Afghanistan's new cabinet was finalized. Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has submitted the list to President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Today, before leaving Jalalabad, Bordanoddin Rabbani announced the names of the 19 ministers of the new Afghan Cabinet. According to this list, each Jehadi Afghan group has been allocated two ministerial posts, and it has been decided that the rest of the ministers should be chosen from among Afghans living inside or outside Afghanistan. In this list no position has been allocated to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's faction. For this reason, informed sources in Islamabad believe that it is likely that he will refrain from accepting the list.

Meanwhile, following the agreement of the main Afghan group leaders, a delegation has left Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province, for Kabul in order to arrange for a cease-fire between various rival groups in the capital. During a two-month peiod, this delegation will try to find a lasting solution toward ending the clashes between the rival factions.

According to various reports, the formation of eight committees have been among other agreements reached at the Jalalabad conference. One of these committees will be in charge of creating a balance between the powers of the president and the prime minister.

At the same time, during the next two months the ministries of Defense and Interior will in turn be run by Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Soceity], led by Borhanoddin Rabbani, and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], led by Golboddin Hekmatyar. During that period, a committee will appoint the members of the Council of Afghan Commanders so that they may reach a decision about the appointment of the ministers of defense and interior at the end of that period.

More on Cabinet

BK2005132293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1306 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Islamabad, May 20 (AFP)—Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud has no position in a new Afghan cabinet formed after more than three weeks of multiparty talks in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad.

According to mojahedin sources, the new cabinet includes important religious and guerrilla leaders belonging to nine parties which participated in the 14-year anti-communist war that led to the ouster of the former communist regime last year.

Each party has been given two portfolios while the powerful Defence Ministry is to be run by a commission headed by President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Mas'ud has agreed to step down clearing a major hurdle in the formation of the cabinet.

Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar, whose radical Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction was engaged in bloody fighting with Defence Ministry forces, had been demanding the removal of Mas'ud from the government.

Hekmatyar will lead the important Interior Ministry, sources in his party said.

The leaders also decided to form a Supreme Council comprising chiefs of all the mojahedin factions as a supervisory body.

A ceasefire commission has also been named to arrange cessation of hostilities that has claimed thousands of lives since the April 1992 take over of Kabul by mojahedin.

The Foreign Ministry will go to Hedayat Amin Arsala of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) led by moderate leader Syed Ahmad Gaylani. The Frontier Affairs Ministry will be run by NIFA's Salman Gaylani, who held the Foreign Ministry in Rabbani's cabinet.

Mojahedin Pound Coalition Positions in Kabul

LD2005184993 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] A responsible military source of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan told the correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom that yesterday morning coalition forces' heavy weapons positions on the television hill and the gun hill [both in almost the center of Kabul City] from where they aimed at the dwellings of defenseless civilians, were subjected to attacks by the mojahedin. The coalition forces suffered heavy losses of life and material. The report says that during their extensive operation, the mojahedin were able to destroy many heavy weapons' positions of the coalitionists on the television hill and set fire to a weapons and ammunition depot. Flames and smoke of the fire in the depot continued for a long time. [passage indistinct]

Bangladesh

Problem of Chakma Refugees in India Viewed

BK2005140193 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 14 May 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Chakma Problem"]

[Text] It seems that the Government of Bangladesh is making all-out efforts to resolve the Chakma [tribals of Chittagong Hill Tracts] problem. A parliamentary delegation led by the communications minister, Oli Ahmed, has visited the Chakma refugee camps in Tripura State of India and held talks with the refugees. The delegation gave assurances to the refugees regarding their safe repatriation. The refugees also expressed their willingness to return to their homeland. The Indian authorities have also pledged to extend cooperation to Bangladesh in this regard. Leaders of the People's Solidarity Council of Chittagong Hill Tracts [CHTs] have also agreed to hold further talks with the Bangladesh Government on the Chakma issue. This meeting will be held in Khagrachari District of the CHTs on 22 May. All these developments are signs of optimism. It is also true that if the Chakma refugees are safely repatriated then one of the major irritants in the relationship between Bangladesh and India will be resolved.

In Delhi, the Bangladesh minister for communications held talks with Indian Government leaders on the Chakma issue. The joint communique issued at the end of his visit on 10 May stated that the process of repatriation of the Chakma refugees will start within 30 days. The time limit for the repatriation has also been clearly mentioned. Despite all these developments, many people still doubt whether the repatriation will start or not. They say that similar commitments or accords reached between the two countries in the past were not implemented. In this connection, they cite the accord reached between India and Bangladesh regarding the transfer of the Tin Bigha Corridor [border enclaves] to Bangladesh. It took over two decades to implement this accord. Similarly, talks on the sharing of the waters of common rivers seem inconclusive. It may be mentioned that the chief minister of West Bengal, Jyoti Basu, played an important role in resolving the Tin Bigha Corridor issue. Basu's party—that is, the Communist Party of India-Marxist—at present rules Tripura where the Chakma refugees are staying. For this reason, many people hope that there is scope for Jyoti Basu to extend his cooperation in resolving the Chakma problem.

Observers feel that the Chakma problem should be resolved on the soil of Bangladesh. Its solution includes their repatriation and rehabilitation, ensuring their security, and checking the disturbances caused by the so-called Shanti Bahini [tribal insurgents]. It is not known how much assurance has been given by the Indian Government in these matters. The crux of this problem is the land distribution system in the CHTs. The total area of the CHTs is only 11 percent of the territory of Bangladesh. But only one percent of the total population of this country live in the CHTs. For this reason people from the overpopulated plains of the country have migrated to the CHTs. It must be mentioned that reserve forests are located in vast areas of the CHTs. The tribals of the CHTs are opposed to the settlement of people from other parts of the country in their region as they have a different language and culture. Due to objections raised by the tribals, the government through an ordinance issued in 1984 prohibited the settlement of people from the plains in the CHTs. But it is unfortunate that despite this step taken by the government, the Shanti Bahini did not end their insurgency.

Like other districts of the country, the CHTs are divided into three separate districts. Local Government Councils have been set up in each of these three districts for better administration. So far, 11 departments previously administered by the respective ministries in the capital have been transferred to these local government councils. We hope that the remaining 11 departments, which it was earlier promised would be handed over to the local government authorities, will soon be transferred in order to win the confidence of the people of the region. The powers of these local government councils can be extended or curbed if necessary. The current Chakma king, Debasish Roy, has stressed the need for industrialization in the CHTs with a view to solving the economic problems of the region. But it should be admitted that industrialization of the region is not possible without involving the non-locals. Moreover, a precondition for industrialization is peace and stability. We hope that all concerned will make efforts to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Taka 1,461 Crore Earned From Garments Export

BK2005125893 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 93 p 10

[Text] Bangladesh has earned U.S. dollar 397.54 million equivalent to Taka 1461.84 crore from export of readymade garments during the first three months of the current year. Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar informed the Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] on Thursday [13 May 13], reports BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha].

In a written reply to a question from Treasury Bench member Mohammad Sirajul Islam, the Minister said of the total earning U.S. dollar 331.98 million (Taka 1207.99 crore) came from woven garment export while U.S. dollar 65.56 million (Taka 253.85 crore) from the knitwear and hosiery garments

Answering another question from Jatiya Party member Monirul Huq Chowdhury, the Minister said that Bangladesh earned a total amount of U.S. dollars 4791.02 million (Taka 16677.98 crore) from export of readymade garments and dollar 384.30 million (Taka 1443.86 crore) from knitwear and hosiery exports during the period 1984-85 to 1992-93 (July-March) financial year.

Public Sector Jute Mills Incur Loss of Taka 311 Crore

BK2005132693 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 93 p 7

[Text] Country's public sector jute mills incurred production loss of about 43,000 metric tons in first nine months of the current fiscal year, Jute Ministry sources said, says UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

They attributed the production loss to power disruption, strikes, lay-off, and prevailing unrest in the sector.

The state-owned Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) now runs 35 jute mills. Lay-off was declared recently in another public sector jute mills, Mymensingh Jute MIlls, because of additional expenditures as well as "illegal" activities of workers and labour leaders of the mills.

According to the sources, BJMC suffered a loss of Tk. [Taka] 311.92 crore during fiscal 1991-92. It earned Tk. 672.41 crore against a spending of Tk. 984.33 crore during the year.

The country earned Tk. 994.02 crore by exporting jute and jute goods in first nine months of the current fiscal year against Tk. 1008.58 crore during the coresponding period last year. This shows a fall of Tk. 14.56 crore in earning from jute and jute goods exports, the sources said.

India

Spokesman Rejects Malott's Offer on Pakistan Talks

BK2005160893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] India has said its commitment to human rights is total and second to none in the world. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that India is not against discussing human rights with friendly countries, but it does not want to receive any advice from any quarter on the issue. He said allegations of human rights violation made by some organizations like Amnesty International pertain to very abnormal situation like that in Kashmir where Pakistan has waged a proxy war against India. Referring to observations made by the Clinton administration official, Mr. John Malott, in the capital about the alleged violation of human rights in Kashmir, he said the government does not condone any such incident. Action is taken whenever specific charges come to notice. Rejecting the American offer of help in starting Indo-Pak talks on Kashmir, the spokesman said the issue can be solved bilaterally within the gamut of the Simla agreement.

Meanwhile, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has said that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and the United States should leave it to them. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, the party vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, said Mr. John Malott should not have made allegation against the Indian security forces.

Expressing his view on the same subject, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India -Marxist] urged the center to make it clear to Washington that there can be no infringement of India's sovereignty on the Kashmir question on the pretext of human rights. In a statement in New Delhi, the party politburo urged the government to tackle the situation in Kashmir without delay.

Remarks on Kashmir Criticized

BK2105114893 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 21 May 93

[Commentary by K.G. Joglikar: "John Malott's Visit to India—An Assessment"]

[Text] The visit to India by the United States principal deputy assistant secretary of state, Mr. John Malott, was the first by a senior American official since President Clinton took over in Washington last January. It helped him make an on-the-spot study of the situation in South Asia. The visit also gave the Indian Government an insight into the policies and perceptions of the new administration.

India and the United States have many shared ideals. Democracy, secularism, respect for the rule of law, dignity of the human beings are only some of them. But the relations between the two countries have seen many up's and down's. This is because of the American attitude to the problems in South Asia and the tendency to look at them not on the basis of right or wrong, but on the basis of perceived American global interests. This was apparent in Washington's policy on Kashmir which is constitutionally and legally an intergral part of India, but, which Mr. Malott claimed, was disputed territory.

The dichotomy between percept and practice was never more blatant than during Bangladesh crisis when the American Government turned a blind eye to the atrocities committed by the Pakistani Army in what is now

Bangladesh and pursued a policy which was criticized universally at home and abroad. While India maintains and rightly so that Kashmir is an integral part of India, she has shown a readiness to discuss outstanding issues with Pakistan on a bilateral basis as laid down in the Simla agreement between the two countries. Mr. Malott did not say how there could be any negotiations when Pakistan was, as he admitted, giving support to militants in Kashmir and Punjab. It has also to be noted that while India stood committed to the Simla agreement, Pakistan has been keen to make the Kashmir question an international issue. Can there be any meaningful talks when party to an agreement tries to subvert the integrity of its neighbor and thus goes contrary to the agreement?

President Clinton's emphasis on human rights is well known. During his talks in New Delhi and in a public speech Mr. Malott indicated that the Clinton administration would take a hard look while determining the future relationship with India on India's performance in the field of human rights. Washington probably expects more from India than it does from the dictatorships and monarchies it supports because of the belief that being a democracy, India should have a better record. As he observed, and rightly, human rights should not be an issue between the world's two largest democracies, but, then again, he forgot that most of the violations of human rights in India have taken place in the abnormal conditions created by armed insurgency instigated and supported by Pakistan. Two questions arise. Are government agencies the only ones guilty of violating human rights? Wherever there are complaints against security forces in any part of India, these are reported in the press and thoroughly investigated. But, then, what about violation of human rights, including cold blooded murder of innocent men, women, and children by militants armed and trained by Pakistan?

India is an open country and needs no advice or exhortation from anybody on the question of human rights. A bill was introduced in the parliament during the last session, seeking to set up a human rights commission. An inquiry has been ordered into all cases of detentions so that people are not kept in imprisonment merely on suspicion. Each country has its own problems and these have to be solved only in the context of its own conditions. Unasked for advice is never welcome. How, for example, would Mr. Malott have linked, if he were asked why women in his country are paid less than men for doing the same work?

Home Minister Says Pakistan Encouraging Terrorism

BK2105085693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said human rights of thousands of innocent people are being violated by terrorists. He accused the human rights organizations of being worried only about the rights of terrorists but not of the people. Mr. Chavan charged Pakistan of encouraging terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. He said the Pakistan intelligence outfit, ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence], is organizing training camps in neighboring territories and providing all assistance to them. In this context, the home minister congratulated the people of Punjab for defeating terrorist designs and reinstating a democratically elected government in the state. The home minister was addressing a meeting organized by the Delhi Pradesh [state] Congress-I committee to observe the second death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. He said Rajiv Gandhi was concerned about the welfare of the poor.

Chief of Pro-Pakistan Group Arrested in Kashmir

BK2105075693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the army achieved a major breakthrough by arresting Sheikh Abdul Aziz, the self-styled supreme commander of a pro-Pakistan militant outfit at Nilloro village near Pulwama early this morning. According to Defense Ministry spokesman in Srinagar, the army acting on a specific information arrested Sheikh Aziz from a house along with his four bodyguards. Two pistols, four AK rifles, and some ammunition were recovered from them. The search operation is continuing and more recovery of arms is expected.

In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew continues in the Kishtwar town of Doda district and the situation has been described as under control. Meanwhile, most of the vehicles are off the road in Jammu city since this morning in response to the 72-hour bundh [strike] call given by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and some other organizations. They are demanding deployment of army to flush out militants in the entire Doda district.

Commentary Notes Improving Ties With Israel

BK2005111293 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 20 May 93

[Commentary by journalist G.N. Raina]

[Text] The just-concluded visit to India by the Israeli foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, rightly provided a unique and promising opportunity to lay firm foundations of cooperation between the two countries, which, despite the difference in size, share similar experiences on most issues. The visit, the first by a senior Israeli leader since the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the two nations, has been quite significant in many ways. It has opened new vistas of friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

The Jews, it may be recalled, were one of the first migrants to India and as President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma said, the centuries-old settlements can be seen even today in cities like Cochin and Bombay. That the Jews in India did not suffer any discrimination over the years is the result of the millennium-old ethos of religious tolerance that has prevailed in India. Mr. Peres himself paid tributes to India's record of secularism when he told a press conference in New Delhi that India has shown to the world that democracy is not merely the right to be equal but also to be different. Mr. Shim'on Peres utilized the opportunity to discuss with top Indian leaders not only bilateral relations but also international situation. New areas of cooperation in the economic, cultural, scientific, and technological fields emerged during the Israeli leader's visit. Israel with its access to world finance and high technology would find India a good place to invest for markets in the rapidly growing Asia-Pacific region. The memoranda of understanding on economic cooperation, tourism, and agriculture, which were signed during the visit, are clear pointers to the beginning of a meaningful partnership in promoting better cooperation in the fields of economy, arts and culture, tourism, civil aviation, and solar energy application.

During the talks the visiting dignitary had in New Delhi, one of the most important issues discussed was the emergence of religious fundamentalism as also the need to meet the danger posed by extremism. Both Tel Aviv and New Delhi have had an unhappy experience as targets of state-sponsored terrorism. The two countries agreed to cooperate in fighting international terrorism and meet the challenge of growing religious fundamentalism.

The Israeli foreign minister appreciated India's stance on West Asia. In fact, he pointed out that, his country did not expect India to dispense itself from friendly Arab and Muslim countries, particularly in view of the fact that Israel was seeking good relations with the Arab world. Mr. Shim'on Peres was emphatic that India's good relations with Muslim countries was a plus and not a minus point.

India is on record in having extended full support to the peace process in West Asia so long as it enjoys the goodwill and cooperation of all concerned sides. India hopes and believes that both Israel and the Arabs would create the necessary conditions to seize the historic opportunity to find a just, honorable, and peaceful solution of the problems that have beset this region for decades, taking into full consideration the rights, national interests, and aspirations of all the parties concerned. To sum up, the establishment of diplomatic ties and the recent two-day visit by Mr. Shim'on Peres has opened floodgates of a renewed chapter of amity between the two countries. As Mr. Peres himself pointed out, India has always enjoyed the highest regard among the people of Israel. India's freedom struggle was one of the greatest examples in recent times of the victory of morality. According to Mr. Shim' on Peres, India was the only country whose battle for freedom was not fought by a politician, or by a general, or by a dictator, or by a king, but by a prophet. In our eyes, he said, Mahatma Gandhi belongs to the clan of prophets.

Commentary on Refugee Repatriation Pact With Dhaka

BK1805112793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 18 May 93

[Commentary by journalist H.C. Shukla]

[Text] At last, the agreement between Dhaka and Delhi on the repatriation of Chakma refugees has been reached. It is quite a heartening development on both humanitarian and political grounds. Some 60,000 Buddhist Chakmas of Chittagong Hill Tracts had fled in 1986 and were languishing in the camps of South Tripura following atrocities committed on them by the Muslim clansmen and the paramilitary forces of Bangladesh. As a matter of fact, the exodus of Chakma tribals had begun when Bangladesh initiated the process of becoming an Islamic state after the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975. The Buddhist Chakmas in the then East Pakistan were suspected of being closer to the Hindu minorities. There had, therefore, been a deliberate attempt at ethnic cleansing.

The homeland of the Chakmas—Chittagong Hill Tracts—is mountainous and is under thick cover of forests. This amply explains why land-man ratio in this tribal belt had been much lower than the rest of the erstwhile East Pakistan. Under the British rule, Chittagong Hill Tracts had enjoyed a special status since 1890 until 1964 when Pakistan decided against it and removed the curbs on plains people from settling down in this hill area. That was the beginning of the ongoing conflict between the tribals and the Muslims migrated from the plains. This was further aggravated when the then president Ziaur Rahman consciously encouraged Muslims of the plains to move over to the tribal area. In this, he had the sole objective of outnumbering the Chakmas in their homeland. To counter the fate of being reduced into minority, insurgent groups were born and the Shanti Bahini of the Chakmas came into being. The chain of conflicts that followed involving Shanti Bahini and Bangladesh Army, thousands of Chakmas had to flee to India.

There is not the least doubt that the Chakmas want to be rehabilitated in their homeland known as Chittagong Hill Tracts. But what they also want is the guarantee for the safety of their culture. The overwhelming population balance in their favor at the time of partition has virtually been neutralized. Buddhist Chakmas also have a very genuine complaint. They allege that their villages have been reduced to mere concentration camps and the Bangladesh's paramilitary forces monitor their every activity and movement quite closely. Despite a marginal quickening of the communal pulse in Bangladesh, however, of late there have been encouraging signals to the Chakmas. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had exhorted them to return when she was last in Delhi. The small number of people involved in the repatriation encourages the hope that the process will not be a very long affair. While the agreement eliminates irritants in favor of Bangladesh, it remains to be seen whether similar irritants for India will also be removed. Assam chief minister has openly accused Bangladesh of allowing Indian militants a safe haven. It is obvious that the agreement over Chakmas will hold good only if Dhaka tells the Naga, Mizo and other rebels of the northeast that they could not use its territory as sanctuary and springboard for subversive acts against India.

Goa State Chief Minister Decides To Resign

BK1605130093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The Goa chief minister, Mr. Ravi Naik, has decided to resign. This was stated by the AICC-I [All India Congress-I Committee] general secretary, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, in New Delhi today. Mr. Naik will tender his resignation to the state governor tomorrow. The Congress-I legislature party will meet at Panaji tomorrow evening to elect the new leader. It may be recalled that the Goa governor, Mr. Bhanu Prakash Singh, sought the resignation of the 28-month-old Ravi Naik ministry following the judgment of the Panaji bench of the Bombay High Court confirming the disqualification order by the former speaker under the antidefection law. The then speaker disqualified Mr. Ravi Naik and two of his ministers—Mr. Sanjay Badekar and Mr. Ratnakar Chopdekar—in February 1991. As reported, the governor sacked the two ministers yesterday, but the governor asked the Naik government to make alternative arrangements, electing a new leader, before Thursday.

Fast Breeder Reactor Said 16 Years Behind Schedule

BK2005141693 Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 May 93 p 5

[Text] The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pointed out that the total commissioning of the Fast Breeder Test Reactor [FBTR] at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam was running 16 years behind schedule resulting in a cost overrun of more than 160 per cent, reports UNI.

The CAG report on scientific departments said the expenditure on the project, which was initially planned for commissioning by 1976 at a cost of Rs [rupees] 34.85 crore, has gone up to Rs 91.98 crore till March 1992.

With the launching of the project, India had become the seventh country in the world to build and operate on FBTR.

The report tabled in Parliament recently pointed out that estimates of cost and time frame of the project were not revised after April 1983. The costs on the approved estimates were incurred merely on the basis of the approval to the budget estimates.

The report said the likely date of completion and final cost of the project were still "indefinite".

The report said the FBTR attained its first criticality in October 1985 with 22 fuel sub-assemblies which can generate power up to 10 mwt [megawatt] but the reactor is yet to be loaded with 65 fuel sub-assemblies to generate power at 42.5 mwt as originally envisaged.

The report said "it was mentioned during discussions that the reactor in its present condition was capable of being loaded with 65 fuel sub-assemblies with which full power content of 42.5 mwt can be achieved."

The CAG report said delay in "commissioning" of FBTR would in turn delay the 500 mwt Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DA), on which an expenditure of Rs 34.28 crore has already been incurred during 1988-92.

The FBTR project report envisaged construction of fast breeder test reactor with thermal output of 42.5 mwt and electoral [as published] output of 15 mwt.

The increased cost of the project was attributable to escalation of prices (37.57 per cent), increase in customs duty (21.04 per cent), increase due to design modification (5.02 per cent), manufacture of components supply installations and in commissioning of machinery and equipment (5.12 per cent).

The CAG report said in July, 1973, it was anticipated that FBTR would be commissioned by 1976. This was subsequently revised to, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984.

Kakrapar Atomic Station First Unit Operational

BK1805130293 Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 May 93 p 6

[Text] The first unit of 220 megawatt capacity of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station near Surat (Gujarat) has been declared commercial with effect from May 6. This is the most important landmark since this signifies the maturing of indigenous technology for nuclear power in India. This unit achieved criticality on September 3, 1992 and for the first time synchronised with the grid on November 4, 1992.

With the commercial operation of the unit-I, the much-needed electrical power would start flowing to western grid. This unit joins the group of eight other operating reactors (two each in Tarapur, Rajasthan, Kalpakkam, and Narora), increasing the installed nuclear power generation capacity to 1720 megawatt. The second unit of the Kakrapar project, which is in commissioning stages, is expected to commence power generation during early 1994.

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited stated that the construction period to achievement of criticality for the unit has been reduced to about eight years by improving construction methodologies, reducing time cycle for manufacture of critical nuclear components, project management etc, either [as published] the experience gained from previous projects.

For the first time a giant 650 tonne heavy duty crawler crane was used for erection of heavy and large equipment such as calandria, end shields, steam generators, turbine generators, etc.

Population Growth Rate Drops in Last Decade

BK1605095293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] For the first time in the last 60 years the population growth rate in the country declined during the decade 1981-91. According to the annual report of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the population growth rate during 1981-91 was 2.14 percent as against 2.22 percent during the previous decade. The report, however, noted with concern that the absolute addition of the population during this period was about 16 crores, almost equal to the population added in three decades from 1931-1961.

The report says there is a marked reduction of over 90 percent in incidents of leprosy in the 40 endemic districts. The national AIDS control program was launched last year with an IDA [International Development Association] credit of $84 million. Out of the 440 districts in the country, up to the end of September 1992, 388 districts were provided with TB [tuberculosis] centers equipped with essential equipment and trained manpower.

Foreign Investments Worth 2 Billion Rupees Approved

BK1705130693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Foreign investment proposals worth 200 crore rupees have been approved by the government. At its 12th meeting in New delhi today, the empowered committee under the chairmanship of the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, cleared 21 proposals envisaging direct foreign investment in Indian companies. The proposals were recommended by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. With this, the committee has so far cleared proposals of direct foreign investment of about 1,350 crore rupees. The proposals approved today include nine proposals for setting up a 100-percent export-oriented unit in areas like anticancer drugs, bulk drugs, granite slabs, cotton yarn, marine products and processed mushrooms.

Remittances by Overseas Nationals Increase

BK1805080693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] NRI [Non-Resident Indian] deposits under two special schemes in operation have gone up during 1992-93. According to figures available, the net inflow of NRI deposits in the Non- Resident External Rupees Accounts and Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts has risen to about $121 million during the period. The data shows that, however, on the money front, broad money supply in the whole of 1992-93 grew by 14.7 percent compared to 18.5 percent in 1991-92. The infrastructure sector also registered an upward trend during the period.

Textile Exports Achieve 13.7 Percent Growth Rate

BK1905103893 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 May 93 p 19

[Text] New Delhi, May 14—India's textile exports have achieved an impressive growth rate of 13.7 percent in dollar terms during 1992-93.

Disclosing this at a press conference here today, Minister of State for Textiles G. Venkataswamy said that efforts would be made to achieve a growth rate of more than 12 percent in textile exports during the current financial year 1993-94.

The Minister said that the textile exports comprising textile, clothing, jute, handicrafts and coir during 1992-93 amounted to U.S. $6,590 million. Textile and clothing exports alone amounted to U.S. $5,616 million as compared to U.S. $4,881 million in the previous year, recording growth rate of 15.1 percent.

In rupee terms the textile exports during the year amounted to Rs. [rupees] 19,083 crore as compared to Rs. 14,409 crore during 1991-92 registering an increase of 32.4 percent, he said.

The Government had fixed a target of U.S. $6,349 million for 1992-93 for export of textiles including handicrafts, jute and coir and U.S. $5,318 million for export of textiles and clothing alone. The achievement in 1992-93 amounted to 103.8 percent of the target when handicrafts, jute and coir are taken into consideration and 105.6 percent of the target if handicrafts, jute and coir are excluded.

Answering a question, the Minister said that among the textile items only, jute had recorded a negative growth rate. Jute exports during the year amounted to $111 million as compared to $157 million during the previous year. The major reason for the fall in exports included loss of Soviet market, stiff competition from Bangladesh and availability of cheaper synthetic products, he added.

He maintained that to overcome the obstacles in the way of growth in exports of jute, an all India meeting of union leaders and manufacturers will be held at Vizag on May 22. Efforts would be made to find out ways and means for diversification and increasing productivity in the jute sector.

The Minister said that exports registered significant increases, in almost all sectors. Ready-made garment exports during 1992-93 amounted to Rs. 8,841 crore (U.S. $3,053 million) as compared to Rs. 6,282 crore (U.S. $2,525 million) showing an increase of 40.7 percent in rupee terms and 20.9 percent in dollar terms.

Against the target of U.S. $2,707 million, the exports amounted to U.S. $3,053 million, i.e. exports surpassed the target by 12.8 percent.

He maintained that a significant feature of the textile exports during the calendar year 1992 was that while exports to quota countries grew by 43 percent, that of non-quota countries went up by 57 percent.

Exports of coir amounted to Rs. 94 crore equivalent to 33 million dollars in 1992-93 as compared to Rs. 74 crore (30 million dollars). The increase amounted to 27.3 percent in rupee terms and 10.2 percent in dollar terms. Against the target of U.S. $31 million, exports amounted to 10.5 percent of the target.

The Minister said that the Government had taken a number of steps in the recent past which should give further impetus to the exports of textiles. Full convertibility of rupee, reduction in import duty on capital goods, etc would make our products more competitive in the international market, he added.

U.S. Child Labor Bill May Affect Industry

BK1405123493 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 7 May 93 p 3

[Text] New Delhi, May 6—India may lose a major share of its export of traditional products like carpets, precious stones, granite and brassware to the U.S. if Senator Tom Harkin's Bill becomes an Act.

The anti-Child Labour Bill reintroduced in the U.S. Congress, proposes to ban the entry of products manufactured by child labour into the U.S..

The Chairperson of the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude, Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, left for Washington on Sunday last to meet the U.S. Senator and give him the Association's assessment of the problem and suggest suitable amendments.

Mr. Satyarthi fears that if the Government of India does not take up the matter seriously, the country may lose more than Rs. [rupees] 1,000 crore on exports to the U.S. annually.

The purpose of the Bill, titled "Child Labour Deterrence Act" is to curtail the employment of children under the age of 15 in the production of goods for export by eliminating the role of the United States in providing a market for such foreign products, and by encouraging other nations to join in a ban on trade in such products.

It says that the U.S. Secretary of Labour will undertake a periodic review using all available information, including information made available by the ILO [International Labor Office] and human rights organisations, to identify any foreign industry and its host country that utilises child labour in the export of products, with special reference to exports to the U.S.. The civil and criminal penalties for violations could go up to $35,000 or one year imprisonment.

The Bill also has a section which states the procedure regarding the certification that an article is not a product of child labour, providing for the Secretary to prescribe the form and content of documentation in connection with the entry of a manufactured article. The documentation envisaged will include written evidence that the agreement setting forth the terms and conditions for the provision of the imported article include the condition that the article is not a product of child labour.

The South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS) which has been campaigning against child labour, feels that the Bill is "a shot in the arm of the SACCS movement" and a "classic revealation of the concern of illustrious nation like the USA for the protection of children's rights". The SACCS believes the aim of the Bill is to incorporate an ethical element in international trade.

However, it does not agree to the proposal for self-certification by importers about the non-involvement of child-labour in products on making their way to U.S. shores. In this context, it becomes imperative to have an independent and professional mechanism involving social/human rights organisations for the meticulous monitoring and inspection of products.

Such a monitoring system has been worked out jointly by SACCS and the Indo-German Expert Programme Project, and revolves principally around the creation of a label certifying that the manufacture does not involve child-labour.

Additionally, SACCS suggests the following modifications to the Harkin Bill. Firstly, that in cases where a sufficiently credible certificate is available from the country of origin, the importer in the U.S. be exempted from additional certification, given that the importer is free to demand such a certificate from the exporter. And secondly, that the terms 'label' and 'certification' be clearly defined. Certification, especially, as 'having been carried out by an independent neutral body with credibility and standing for the cause of removal of child labour.'

Naturally, an inspection body given this responsibility would have to function according to internationally practised certification standards.

"Mr. Harkin has supported the idea of labelling carpets in India in principle, but I want to pursue him to introduce this properly in the Bill. The labelling may save export industries from landslide fall," said Mr. Satyarthi.

On the creation of a trade mark, SACCS and IGEPP [expansion unknown] was planning in so far as carpets were concerned that the legal owner of the trade mark and holder of the inspection/certification infrastructure would be a private limited company formed by representatives of the Indian carpet industry, the NGOs [nongovernment organizations] associated within SACCS, and a neutral international organisation (IGEP, ILO). The company would be incorporated in India, and would be registered and protected initially in India and the major carpet importing countries, especially USA and the European Community.

Iran

Iraq Warned Over Cross-Border Sabotage Operations

LD2105141493 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] United Nations HQ., New York, May 21, IRNA—Iran Thursday [20 May] considered Iraq responsible for the trans-border aggressions of counterrevolutionary elements upon the Iranian territory and warned the Iraqi regime of its consequences.

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Gholamali Khoshroo [name as received] in a letter to the Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali Thursday said that a number of counterrevolutionaries with the financial and military support of Iraq had crossed the international border and penetrated into the Iranian territory, causing casualties and inflicting damage to civilian quarters and military and oil installations.

The letter said that the anti-revolutionaries martyred two people in Ghar-Sephid region in Gilan-e Gharb on April 8th.

Two other people were martyred during an attack on the mast of Iran's oil installations in north of Tonkab and northeast of Zeyn Alghos in Khomak Khu-e heights.

Attack on the military police headquarters of Ghar-Sephid in Gilan-e Gharb on April 9th and counterrevolutionaries infiltration into Salehabad region of Mehran on April 7th were among other cases mentioned in the letter.

"The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran views these aided trans-border military and sabotage operations with extreme concern and alarm," it said.

The letter reiterated that the trans-border operations that had been planned and initiated in Iraq constituted serious violations of both sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran.

It stressed that the Iranian Government held "the Iraqi Government solely responsible for these violations and their aftermaths."

Said Behind 'State-Sponsored Terrorism'

LD2005102393 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—A senior Iranian official Wednesday denounced Iraq for "harbouring state-sponsored terrorism" inside the Islamic Republic of Iran. In an interview published in Thursday's issue of the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES', Vice-Speaker of the Majles Hassan Rohani said "the Iraqi regime trained and equipped groups with necessary materials to embark on terrorist activities in Iran."

Rohani, also secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said that recently these Iraqi agents blasted oil pipelines in southern Iran, but all were arrested by the security officials.

He added that those arrested were mostly from the Arab National Front and the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO).

"During their interrogation, these terrorists confessed that the Iraqi regime had trained and equipped them with explosive materials so that they could explode the oil pipelines inside Iran," Rohani said. He said that while the Iraqi regime was embarking on state sponsored terrorism, it was also sending messages to Iran for normalisation of bilateral relations.

Rohani who is head of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Majles stressed that Iran was not against normalisation of ties with Baghdad but that there were certain terms which should be fulfilled by the Iraqi regime before initiating any other friendly action. "The first step which we expect is that the Iraqi regime should stop sending terrorists into Iran both in south Iran and Iranian Kordestan."

According to reports Iraq is training mercenaries of the outlawed Arab People's Front, the Kurdish Democratic Party, the MKO, Komelleh Marxist and Maoist Party of Kordestan and sending them to Iran for terrorist activities. Rohani called on the Iraqi regime to take specific steps on finding solutions to the problems of the prisoners of war. He stressed that Iran has proof that 5,000 Iranian pows are in Iraq for which all necessary details were furnished to Baghdad by Tehran and it was determined that they all were alive and in Iraqi custody. He deplored that Iraq's stand on this vital issue was not cooperative and "if their claims are supported by the authentic proofs, then it would have a favourable impact on the remaining 20,000 Iraqi pows who are in Iran after the 1980-1988 war between the two countries which was initiated by Baghdad." With regards to these issues normalisation of ties would be contradictory, he said.

Touching on the security of the Persian Gulf region, he said that the eight littoral states should assume the responsibility for the security and stability in the region. He stressed that no foreign powers should be allowed to come over here for a job which "we are quite capable of doing ourselves." The eight littoral counties are Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq. He said that the Iraqi seat would remain vacant and the rest of the seven countries should assume their duties in this respect until the time that the issues are settled down in Iraq.

"The first factor which should be on the top of our agenda is to reduce tension in the region and should be followd by a collective and sincere effort to remove the dirt from the friendly, brotherly and neighbouring relations among all of us," he stressed. He warned that the outsiders were only interested in the region's oil and not the security of the region. He ensured that Iran was "in no way dangerous for any country in the region" and that it would never even think about exporting the Islamic revolution through arms.

Turning to the importance of Saudi Arabia in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, he said that most regional problems would be solved if Iran and Saudi Arabia worked together. He scoffed at the Damascus Declaration which calls for a defense accord by six council members as well as Syria and Egypt. He said the accord was meant for political propaganda adding that a look at the geographical, technologicl and military factors would clarify that the accord had no meaning. He said that the council members had western style weapons and other military faciities while those of Syria were entirely eastern and that Egypt had both mixed.

"Of course certain countries want to keep the so-called 6/2 formula of the Persian Gulf security alive just for economic reasons otherwise it cannot work."

Asked about Iran's relations with the West, he said that Iran has "made two axes for the normalisation of its relations with the western countries and these two axes are Germany and France whose policy is independent from western influence." He said that Britain followed the United States in its policy so it was difficult to go along with London.

The daily said Rohani was optimistic that talks between Iran and European countries would start "for the smooth flow of collective and bilateral relations." He added that President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani's letter to the European Community had a favourable impact.

Commenting on the future cabinet of Rafsanjani, he said "I believe that if brother Rafsanjani wins the elections he will make certain changes in his cabinet as the present cabinet will face tough challenges from the Majles deputies."

Hajj Supervisor Blames U.S. for Problems in Iraq

LD1505104493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the representative of the vali-ye faqih and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims to the house of God, met 200 Iraqi pilgrims and members of the Iraqi Hajj Office [a'za-ye be'the-ye eraq] this morning. He said: In addition to the efforts being made to liberate the oppressed people of Iraq, particularly crucial under present conditions and capable of bringing victory to Iraqi Muslims are unity of word, solidarity, piety, and the greater jihad.

According to our correspondent from Medina, the representative of the vali-ye faqih and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims expressed concern about the situation of the people of Iraq. He stated: Despite the grave conditions which exist in Iraq, the necessary attention is unfortunately not being paid to the tyranny being exercised over the people of Iraq.

He added: At the root of all the problems of the Iraqi people under present conditions are the conspiracies hatched by America.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri also referred to the importance of holding the disavowal of the infidels ceremonies and called on all pilgrims to the house of God actively to participate in these religious and political ceremonies.

U.S. Refusal of Entry to Official 'Hostile Act'

NC1905123093 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 May 93 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "Yet Another Sign of U.S. Hostility"]

[Text] With the passage of time, more and more tangible signs of the intensification of U.S. hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran are becoming visible.

One of these signs is the refusal to allow the entry of various political delegations to that country to participate in international conferences and forums. The most recent case, which was also the ugliest and most disgraceful, was the refusal to allow the head of the Majles Economic Commission to enter the United States to participate in the IMF session.

In relation with this, some points are noteworthy:

1. The United States is the headquarters for many international organizations and forums and the Washington administration has linked the fate of these organizations to its own fate. U.S. acts that violate international regulations discredit these forums more and more each day and, moreover, they reveal the true dependent nature of them.

2. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Shahrudi held a valid diplomatic passport and a U.S. entry visa. In addition to violating the Geneva convention and disregarding the diplomatic immunity of a Majles official, the U.S. leadership also violated its own domestic laws.

A. The United States has no justification for handcuffing and imprisoning a high-ranking Iranian official. By doing so, it has shown that there is no reason for U.S. diplomats to enjoy diplomatic immunity either. This impudence by the United States should receive a timely reply.

Our diplomatic machinery should confront this case more actively and the United States should be called to trial. The enemy's hostile act should not receive a calm reply; unfortunately our minister of economy and finance who headed the delegation failed to react in time.

Is the regulating of economic relations with the IMF more important than safeguarding the political prestige of the system?

We should bear in mind that the Democratic government in the United States continues to think of avenging the occupation of the American Embassy and the taking of American spies as captives—incidents that led to the downfall of the Democrats in the United States at that time. But in that incident, the Muslim students in Iran acted contrary to the views of the provisional government of the time, while now the U.S. Government officially arrested the head of the Majles Economic Commission.

B. In justifying the decision to refuse entry to the head of the Majles Economic Commission, the U.S. State Department said: "Mr. Shahrudi was given the opportunity to voluntarily request that his visa be returned."

First of all, the meaning of "voluntarily" has been clarified as have the meanings of other terms and words such as "human rights" and "terrorism!" The U.S. Government wanted to carry out this voluntary act with the use of handcuffs, prison, and insults.

Secondly, the U.S. judiciary and not the State Department has the authority to cancel a valid visa. At any rate, in trying to justify its disgraceful act, the State Department has made contradictory remarks such as its allegation that the visa was wrongly issued! We should officially ask the U.S. Government to explain its unjustifiable act so that in this way its inhuman face will be further revealed.

Commentary Views U.S. Decision on SDI, Future Moves

LD1605131493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 16 May 93

[Unattributed commentary: "America and the Fate of Star Wars]

[Text] America has plunged the fate of the Space Defense Initiative [SDI], known as Star Wars, into ambiguity. American Defense Secretary Les Aspin, announcing the end of the space war era, stated that this initiative in not suitable for the world after the end of the cold war and hence has been set aside from U.S. projects.

Advocates of the continuation of the Star Wars initiative in America have condemned the new administration's action in canceling SDI. Former American President Reagan has said: If we can secure our country from missile attacks by a defensive shield, we must do so. Reagan has warned the American Democratic administration against giving up the SDI. He said: If the new American Administration believes that we are no longer in danger, it had better look more carefully at the world around it.

The controversial SDI, which was mooted in early 1980's as the power of the new right increased and the Reagan administration came to power, lost some of its defenders after the ending of the cold war and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and opposition to the initiative began.

Opponents of continuing SDI stress that, with the elimination of the Soviet nuclear threat, an initiative which had been planned to confront the threat is no longer needed, especially in view of its high cost.

In contrast to the arguments put forward by opponents of the continuation of SDI, one group is still insisting on its execution. This group argues that, although the old American enemy during the cold war has disappeared, nuclear research has not yet vanished. The group claims the dispersal of nuclear weapons among numerous states and the existence of the nuclear threat posed by countries other than the former Soviet Union which possess nuclear capability have even increased the necessity to carry through the Star Wars project.

The question is: Which path will Bill Clinton's administration choose between the two groups opposing and advocating Star Wars—groups which are rivals as well? SDI was planned with the objective of enabling America to get the upper hand against the Eastern superpower in the bipolar system. Although with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, America found the opportunity to call itself the only superpower in the world, rivalries—not in the military arena but in the economic, political, and cultural arenas—facing America will turn that country into a direction where it will not be able to compete while holding the upper hand under the new conditions. In this path the weight of astronomical military expense and an initiative such as the SDI are considered to be obstacles for the American Administration. Nevertheless, considering that in the new rivalries the winning card for America is the same military superiority, while economic rivals are strongly competing with America, America cannot completely set aside its strategic military plans. Thus it seems that the Democrats' administration is trying—by changing military projects—to make itself compatible with the new conditions so that, while the pressure of heavy military expense is reduced, it can keep its superiority in military systems. As Les Aspin stressed when announcing the end of Star Wars, setting aside SDI does not mean the abandonment of the antimissile defense system but its reorganization. The elimination of the Soviet threat and the appearance of new threats have faced America with the need for this reorganization.

British Imports Down Due to Dispute Over Rushdie

LD1505060593 Tehran IRNA in English 0522 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] London, May 15, IRNA—Pending an agreement over terms, Britain has virtually suspended all state-related insurance for exporters to Iran by no longer offering medium and long-term cover, which in effect was never taken up.

The move follows a fall in British sales to Iran that come in the wake of the UK Government provoking a renewed political dispute with Tehran over apostate author, Salman Rushdie. It also comes at a time of an all-out export drive to boost Britain out of recession.

The decision was made by the Export Credits Guarantee Department [ECGD] in mid-April, but was not announced. A spokesman maintained it was due to "payment arrears" but gave no indication that the facility had not been used owing to a dispute about UK terms.

He said that Britain was "keen to do business" but first sought some satisfaction about the management of the country's debts. Until this happened, all new applications from British exporters would be rejected. The spokesman was unable to comment on the sudden change of policy that came so soon after the ECGD decision to increase Iranian premiums on April 5 in line with a general review of rates and a government rise in cover to lead an exports drive.

It was only in 1992 that the British Government resumed medium and long-term credits for trade with Iran but it is understood that the facility has never been used. Earlier this year, the ECGD spoke of cover being available but a lack of business.

Economists have pointed out that Iran's arrears with Britain, estimated at $30m, is short-term and only accounts for one percent of its worldwide commitment. At the same time, bigger trade partners, like Germany, have sought ways to continue trade.

With a worldwide trade deficit virtually doubling to $18 bn in 1992 and expected to rise to $23 bn this year, most see the UK can ill-afford to ignore lucrative markets or put political obstacles in the way of hampering trade.

Official figures for the first three months of this year show a significant cut in Britain's trade surplus with Iran, with exports to Tehran falling to pounds 127 million ($190m) and imports rising to pnds 67m ($100m).

Since reprovoking the dispute over Rushdie, the UK has already had several trade missions cancelled by Iran and following this week's "show of solidarity" by Prime Minister John Major, many suspect British exports to be further affected.

Last year, British exports to Iran, which represents the UK's biggest market in the Middle East, excluding Israel, rose by 11 percent to pnds 568m ($850m) and showed a trade surplus in excess of pnds 400m ($600m).

IRGC Commander Stresses Readiness To Confront Zionism

LD2105103493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] The American ruling apparatus has come under the strong influence of Tel Aviv and the Zionists, and that issue poses a serious threat to humanity and world peace.

Major General Reza'i, the Supreme Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps [IRGC], confirmed today the Islamic Republic of Iran's total readiness to confront dangers arising from expansionism and the evils of the Zionist regime.

Reza'i, speaking at the ceremony before Tehran's Friday Prayers sermons, stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran would pursue the path of development and progress in the spheres of culture, science and economy, in full force. He described the Iranian basiji and popular forces as the most important defensive asset of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Remarking on the approaching 6th presidential elections, Reza'i said that the presence of the Iranian nation at the ballot boxes would serve as yet another sensitive scene displaying the formidable will of our nation in realizing their divine and human aspirations and in confronting threats posed by the enemies of Islam and Iran.

Recalling parts of the historic performance of the Islamic combatants during the liberation of Khorramshahr, Major General Reza'i stressed: The brave forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are forever ready to repeat the great epics of the eight years of the sacred defense. The policy of the forces, however, is merely to defend the country and confront the enemy's threats.

Jewish Leader Says Israel Founded on Discrimination

LD1805161093 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—The Zionist state of Israel is founded on racial discrimination, said the religious leader of Iranian Jews, Rabbi Oril Davidi, here today.

"Zionist rulers have made sure not to involve eastern Jews in the ruling political system," Davidi, interviewed by IRNA, said.

"The Zionists—who have their roots in Europe and North America—want Jews from the east to only work for them," he added.

The rabbi regretted that Arabs and Jews had always been viewed as "toys" by the big powers in the world of politics.

In Islamic Iran, he said, the Jewish community has always been present on the scene along with their fellow countrymen, and are looking forward to participation in the presidential elections to be held June 11.

Davidi also disclosed that Jews who migrated from Iran after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution (1979) are not satisfied with the living conditions abroad especially in the U.S., and were ready to return home.

Embassy in Rome Denies Country Holding Israeli Pilot

LD1505054293 Tehran IRNA in English 0455 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Rome, May 15, IRNA—Iran's Embassy here Thursday categorically denied reports by the Italian news agency alleging that an Israeli pilot identified as Rod Arad, was being held in Iran.

In an announcement released here, the embassy stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has no information, whatsoever, about the Israeli pilot or his whereabout as repeatedly mentioned by the Iranian authorities before. It also termed the agency's report as "baseless" and expressed regret over spread of such false information.

The announcement was referring to the agency's last Tuesday's report quoting the so-called "Israeli-Italian Association" that the Israeli pilot, who allegedly made an emergency parachuting in southern Lebanon in 1986, was likely being held in Iran.

The association had further claimed that Arad was under Amal militia detention till 1987 but that no information was available about him ever since.

Vice President Urges Negotiations in Afghanistan

LD2005094693 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—Vice-President Hassan Habibi on Wednesday [19 May] urged all belligerent parties in Afghanistan to solve their disputes through peaceful negotiations.

He said the continued conflicts would only weaken the Muslims and pave the way for foreigners to further take advantages of the situation.

Speaking after a cabinet meeting, Habibi who is also the government spokesman, said the omission of one group from the political scene of Afghanistan might not be in the interest of other groups.

He reiterated the Iranian Government's concern over the situation in Afghanistan.

Borujerdi Interviewed on Afghan Situation

LD2005213993 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1514 GMT 20 May 93

[Interview with 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asian-Pacific affairs, by unidentified correspondent, in the weekly "Political Roundtable" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Borujerdi, recently we witnessed that Mr Borhanoddin Rabbani sent a message to the president of our country. What was the content of that message, and what did the Afghan president ask the Iranian president?

[Borujerdi] His Excellency President Rabbani, and His Excellency Hekmatyar, the prime minister, have both sent written messages to His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as you have already mentioned. In those messages both parties had expressed concern about the situation. The latest situation in Afghanistan, after the Islamabad peace agreement, was described while concern was expressed about the tense and unstable present situation in Kabul in particular. The messages further conveyed gratitude for the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past, and expressed the hope that such efforts by the neighboring country may continue. Of course this has always been, and will always be, our policy. That is to say that we will do our best for establishing peace and tranquillity in the region, and Afghanistan is one the region's countries, and its crisis is one of the important crises in the region and in the world. Naturally this suggestion will receive favorable treatment, and we are pondering what new things can be done to resolve the current problems, in view of requests put forward by the Afghan president and prime minister.

[Correspondent] As you know, there are many active groups and parties in Afghanistan. What practical measures can we take to bring their viewpoints closer to one another?

[Borujerdi] I must point out that whenever we see the leaders of these groups around one table—even though some of them are in practice fighting each other—the substance of talks and exchanges of views is based on understanding and good intentions. Therefore the best way is still the way that right now the leaders of the jehadi groups have chosen. I am specifically referring to the Jalalabad negotiations. We, as a great neighbor of Afghanistan, have always been prepared—as we are at present—to provide help to attain this understanding. We know that Pakistan is following a similar policy. Therefore, the best way is to have understanding among them, based on negotiations. Also the groups' leaders should pay greater attention to the very delicate and dangerous circumstances in the region and in the world. They must realize that if they miss the opportunities today, tomorrow might be too late to reach an understanding. They must also realize that Afghanistan is in serious need of reconstruction and its people are suffering from serious problems. The situation in aid-donating countries of the world is not such that they can give substantial aid to Afghanistan; therefore, as long as the war and its consequent destructions continue, Afghanistan will naturally be years behind its neighboring countries, which are themselves part of the Third World.

[Correspondent] Recently we had a meeting in Tehran about the return of Afghan refugees to their country. What is the latest situation regarding their return?

[Borujerdi] This meeting took place following an agreement reached last year between the Islamic Republic of Iran, Afghanistan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR]. As was planned the first meeting of the committee took place in Tehran last week, as you pointed out. In general, despite the current problems in Afghanistan—such as security problems and the clashes which occur in Kabul—there were positive views about the return of refugees. It was decided that the UNHCR should provide the refugees residing in Iran with greater means; they will be granted the cash or material aid which is normally within the framework of the UNHCR's obligations. It was also decided that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan too should continue their negotiations and cooperations for the purpose of drawing up a plan for the return of the refugees. I think that after this agreement, in the future, we will witness that the process of return of Afghan refugees from Iran to their homeland will be speeded up.

[Correspondent] Thank you for your time Mr. Borujerdi, and thank you for taking part in our program.

[Borujerdi] Thank you.

Turkey Said To Oppose Iranian Presence in Caucasus

NC2105140793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 May 93 p 12

[M. Tavassoli commentary: "The Karabakh Crisis and Turkey"]

[Text] In the wake of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Azerbaijan-Armenia differences which have historical roots have been escalated. Of course, the new round of these discrepancies commenced in the early 1988 and the situation of Karabakh became more critical in the first half of 1991. This gave way to the displacement of many Armenians from Karabakh and Azeris from Armenia. This crisis has continued up to the present day. Recently, this have fallen into the hands of Armenia.

These events have induced international reaction. Different governments and international forums have shown reaction toward this situation. The Conference on Security and Cooperation of Europe convened in Prague held an extraordinary meeting to survey the issue of Karabakh. The Security Council held a session and Resolution 822 was issued. Some countries such as Turkey also show reactions to this crisis.

Turkey has never been indifferent toward the existing crisis in this region because it attaches importance to this zone. Turkey endeavors to have more influence in Central Asia and Caucasia. No change has been made in this policy following the demise of Turgut Ozal. This policy has even become more extensive such that Demirel has time and again warned Armenia to put an end to war in southwest Azerbaijan or has called on the Security Council to interfere and issue a statement recognizing the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan or has sought diplomatic solutions.

About a month back, in New York, Turkey's stand was set forth to the effect that Turkey does not accept the disintegration of Azerbaijan and does not allow anyone to use force to hold sway in the Azerbaijan borders. Turkey pays attention to what goes on in Azerbaijan because the latter is the only Caucasian republic with a Turkish language. In supporting Azerbaijan, Turkey goes so far as to warn Armenia of interference. Of course, this has been mostly at the level of words rather than action. Turkey claims to demand the establishment of peace, the observance of human rights, and the set-up of law. Of course, Armenia is not devoid of a supporter and Russia is its backer.

Turkey makes efforts to prevent Iran's presence in the region. It leaves no stone unturned to win the attention of the people of this region such that recently Turkey has granted a 250 million dollar credit to Azerbaijan. It has even used Ozal's demise as ground for dialogues between the entangled sides surely with the aid of the leaders of Ukraine and Georgia. Turkey tries to play the role of a mediator. Turkey also takes part in a joint U.S.-Russia plan for resolving the Karabakh conflict.

Notwithstanding all of this, on the whole Turkey cannot be so optimistic because just as Russia supports Armenia, Turkey supports Azerbaijan in pursuit of its own interests. From the past, Russia has flared differences among the republics of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia to have permanent presence in this strategic region. Turkey considers it as its zone of influence. But these two can never have the position of Iran because on the one hand Armenia claims to be in need of Iran and is interested in expanding ties with Iran. Despite its military edge over Azerbaijan, the government of Armenia accepts Iran's mediation bids. On the other hand, Azerbaijan also calls for Iran's mediation. In this connection, Iran endeavors to merely have the role of a mediator. Iran essays to establish truce between the conflicting parties. As a result, Turkey cannot have much of an impact on solving the current dispute.

Finally, the Armenian troops' withdrawal from Kelbadzhar on the basis of Resolution 882 [as published] does not signify the cessation of the hostilities and the end of the disputes. This retreat is limited and transient. Consequently, it could be marked that this dispute will go on. The sides should try to personally solve their disputes, since the interference of other countries will have no effect but the disruption of their political and economic stability. The issue of Karabakh is more complex to be resolved through bloodshed. Peace should return to Caucasia through dialogues.

Demirel's Election as Turkish President Viewed

NC2005112793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 17 May 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Suleyman Demirel's Election as President of Turkey"]

[Text] The Turkish parliament elected Suleyman Demirel as the new president of Turkey four weeks after former President Turgut Ozal died. News agencies reported that Demirel failed to secure the required two-thirds in two rounds of voting in the parliament, but he received 244 out of 450 votes in the third round. The Turkish Constitution allows four rounds of voting to elect the president. A candidate must secure 300 of the 450 votes in Parliament in the first or second rounds to be elected. He would need a majority vote, that is 226 votes, to be elected in the third or the fourth rounds. Obviously, the True Path Party [TPP] and Social Democratic Populist Party [SDPP], which make up the coalition government, would elect Suleyman Demirel with a majority in the third round of voting. The TPP has 182 and the SDPP 52 seats in the parliament.

Political experts believe Demirel's election as the new president will help the TPP increase its political strength. Although, according to the Turkish Constitution, the person elected president must resign from his party and maintain an impartial approach toward the political parties, Demirel, considering the prime minister's wide-ranging powers, will try to have the prime minister elected from TPP ranks. He will also try to help the TPP strengthen its place in Turkey's political and economic life.

Demirel must maintain a balanced policy to resolve Turkey's difficult economic problems and inspire confidence in the people before the next parliamentary election. It is common knowledge that Demirel served as prime minister four times previously before his election again on 20 October 1991. His government has been troubled by such problems as the high rate of inflation, unemployment, a foreign debt totaling nearly $50 billion, an imbalance in development in various economic sectors, and economic backwardness in east and southeast Anatolia. Before the parliamentary election, Demirel said his government's economic program called for an open political atmosphere and democracy in the economic field. He described his program as a document that will provide a balance in economic development. After studying the coalition government's work in the past 500 days, however, several economic experts said Demirel had not rectified the economy, curbed inflation, or improved the health and social services. Demirel's term as Turkey's prime minister has not been successful. It would seem that he must solve the internal and external economic problems now. True, he must comply with the Constitution and resign from his party, but that rule cannot prevent him from considering his party's interests. Undoubtedly, Demirel must take significant initiatives based on TPP promises about improving political and social freedom, establishing democracy, and complying with the requirements of human rights.

Turkey was strongly criticized by several organizations in Europe for its policy toward the Kurds and the violation of human rights in 1992. Considering all this, we may conclude that Turgut Ozal's [as heard] influence over economic developments in Turkey may continue for many years.

Commerce Minister's Central Asian Tour Discussed

NC1505103893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 12 May 93

[Unattributed "economic commentary"]

[Text] Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji visited Kyrgyzstan last week on the last leg of his tour of several Central Asian countries. The Kyrgyz president during a meeting with Vahaji stressed the fact that Iran is the leader of the Islamic world and that Kyrgyzstan, as part of that world, calls for expanding bilateral relations and cooperation in the political, economic, and trade fields.

Vahaji, during a speech at this meeting, said expanding trade is one way to consolidate bilateral relations. He declared Iran's readiness to increase trade exchange, which would facilitate joint investments, and to establish banking relations with Kyrgyzstan as well as to export various types of Iranian products to that country.

Experts believe that the commerce minister's recent trip to the Central Asian republics is an important step toward expanding bilateral and multilateral trade cooperation between Iran and these republics. Following the demise of the communist system in the former Soviet Union, Iran, from the very outset of the independence of the Central Asian republics, recognized them and paid special attention to its relations with them, which are characterized by extensive historical, religious, and cultural ties.

Iran has paid special attention to its relations with these republics, even in the face of difficulties encountered in carrying out domestic reconstruction, by never sparing any kind of aid or cooperation aimed at reducing and alleviating these republics' difficulties, whether bilaterally or through international and regional organizations and the Islamic Conference Organization and ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. Iranian officials also have never disregarded consolidating cooperation and friendly ties with Kyrgyzstan.

The commerce minister's visit to Kyrgyzstan is regarded as a [word indistinct] of the attention Iran is paying to the economic and trade difficulties and requirements of that country.

Minister From Kazakhstan Says Embassy To Open in Iran

NC1805102993 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tajik 1530 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Kazakhstan met the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the United States [as heard] and announced that his country will open an embassy in Tehran shortly. In this meeting, bilateral relations and cooperation in the various fields under the aegis of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Caspian Sea littoral states cooperation council were discussed. The Kazakh deputy foreign minister stressed the importance of the role of communications among the ECO member countries and called for establishing an air link between Tehran and Almaty and utilizing a joint satellite for facilitating telephone communications among the ECO member countries.

Candidates Officially Launch Presidential Campaign

LD1605135393 Tehran IRNA in English 1327 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—The campaign headquarters of the four presidential candidates officially launched their election campaign for the June 11 elections Sunday [16 May] morning.

According to the election law, the nationwide campaign will continue till 24 hours before the election day.

The Guardians Council last Thursday approved eligibility of four of 128 applicants for the sixth presidential elections.

The four are President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, running for the second term in office, former Labour Minister Ahmad Tavakkoli, chancellor of the Islamic Open University 'Abdollah Jasbi and former Majles Deputy Rajabali Taheri.

Mohtashemi Not To Run

NC1705134793 Paris AFP in English 1303 GMT 17 May 93

[Report by Laurent Maillard]

[Text] Tehran, May 17 (AFP)—A leader of the radical Islamic camp said Monday [17 May] it would stay out of the campaign for Iran's presidential election in which 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is tipped to romp home to a second term in office.

The radicals will not take part in protest at the "poisoned political climate ... and absence of freedom," said 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a former interior minister.

He charged in an interview with SALAM newspaper that the government had "opted for the method of elimination, as in the last legislative election" and complained of a lack of press freedom.

The radicals who dominated the Iranian parliament were heavily defeated in last year's election. Many of them have since been detained or silenced and the authorities suspended several of their publications.

The radical camp "will not do anything in particular for the election," said Mohtashemi, but he fell short of declaring a boycott. Their silence does not however mean the radicals have vanished from the political scene, he stressed.

Rafsanjani leads a fieid of four candidates into the June 11 election, without any serious challenger. According to analysts, the turn-out will be the main test of the polls.

Apart from the incumbent, the other candidates are former labour minister Ahmad Tavakkoli, a former MP Rajaf-'Ali Taheri, and the chancellor of the Islamic Open University, 'Abdollah Jasbi.

Analysts said Tavakkoli, an Islamic conservative, was the main challenger but posed no threat to Rafsanjani, who has the support of Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

All three challengers are political light-weights, they said, predicting an easy second four-year term for Rafsanjani.

Tavakkoli, who served in the cabinet between 1981 and 1983, is an advocate of a liberal economy. As a conservative, he also seeks greater Islamization of society in Iran, but is an adversary of Islamic radicals.

The former minister is also a founder of the RESALAT newspaper, close to the merchant class of the Tehran bazaar.

On Sunday, Tavakkoli launched his campaign by calling for sharper measures to counter what he called "Western cultural invasion" and for less state intervention in the economy.

The country's two opposition groups which are tolerated but have no legal status have also said they would not take part in the election campaign.

The Liberation Movement of Iran, a moderate Islamic group headed by former premier Mehdi Bazargan, complained that political parties were not allowed to take part and that the media were monopolized by the government.

Only a boycott could air the people's grievances over "the lack of fundamental liberties and rights," said the secular Iranian People's Party, accusing the government of economic mismanagement.

No Freedom Movement Boycott

LD1705130493 Tehran IRNA in English 1219 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—The Freedom Movement of Iran will not boycott the forthcoming presidential elections, head of the movement, Mehdi Bazargan, told IRNA here Monday [17 May].

Bazargan told IRNA briefly "it is up to the people to decide for themselves whether to participate in the elections."

Foreign media in earlier reports had claimed that Bazargan had said the Freedom Movement plans to boycott the sixth presidential elections.

The elections will be held on Friday June 11, in which four candidates including President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will be running.

Armenians, Zoroastrians Urged To Vote

LD1705110493 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Armenian Archbishop Ardak Manukiyan here Monday [17 May] called on the Iranian Armenians to actively take part in the forthcoming presidential elections, scheduled for June 11.

He stressed that massive participation of the Iranians, especially the Armenians, in the elections would further demonstrate their political vigilance in shouldering social responsibilities as well as their solidarity.

Archbishop Manukiyan appreciated the facilities provided in Iran for religious minorities to observe their religious rituals and hold cultural, social, economic and political activities.

He noted that Iranian Armenians never felt as members of a minority group but rather benefited the same personal and social rights that other Iranian citizens enjoyed.

The archbishop noted that difference of opinion in religious issues between Muslims and Armenians in Iran had not created any problem for the Armenians, adding that this should set an example for people throughout the world.

Meanwhile, Zoroastrian priest Rostam Shahzadi, 80, underlined participation in the presidential elections as a national and religious duty for the Iranian Zoroastrians.

Religious leader of the 50,000 population Zoroastrian community in Iran, who was also a member of the Experts Assembly to compile the Islamic Republic Constitution, called on the new president to strive to remove bottlenecks and bring the country closer to developed and advanced countries of the world.

Prayer Leader Urges High Turnout

LD1405110893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] In his second Friday prayer sermon in Tehran today, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani drew attention to the approaching presidential elections, and discussed the qualifications of candidates for this post. He stressed the importance of the people's extensive participation in this election. He further noted that the power of the president emanates from support by the people. He said: The people's strong participation in this election constitutes a presence on the scene which will strengthen Islam and the country of the lord of the age [12th Shiite imam], may God hasten his return.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani described extensive participation in the presidential elections as an important duty in the way of safeguarding Islam's honor. The provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran stated that the Islamic system, at the head of which stands a just and perfect mujtahid [religious jurist]], relies on people's votes. He said: if a president appears on the scene with great strength, he will be successful in resolving problems both inside and outside the country. He added: The present economic problems, which are the consequences of the performance of the past regime, as well of the imposed war, need surgical attention. A president, relying on the strength of popular support, can remedy economic problems with such surgery and guide the economy into a safe and confident condition.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani continued his second sermon by pointing to the issues of the Islamic world, in particular Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He invited various groups in Afghanistan to act in such a way as to frustrate foreigners. In relation to Bosnia-Herzegovina, he condemned the collaboration of Croats with Serbs for the purpose of annihilating Bosnian Muslims, and described this collaboration as another conspiracy which the international forums ignore with simplicity and complicity.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani referred to the hajj season and emphasized: It is the duty of all Muslims and religious authorities in Islamic countries to think about helping the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and arming them for self-defense, as well as assisting all Muslims the world over.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Sermons

LD2105110493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] The glorious rites of the Friday prayers today were held all over Iran with the massive participation of the faithful. In Tehran Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili delivered the Friday prayer sermons. He referred to the hajj pilgrimage season in the honorable house of God and said that every stage of these magnificent and meaningful rites is an essential factor in building faithful human beings committed to obey God's will.

He added: Such human beings make Islamic society a model society for humanity through performing the rites of Abrahamite hajj, and through separating their path from that of the infidels.

The provisional Friday prayer imam of Tehran, referring to the verses of the honorable Koran and sayings from the infallible, God's blessings be on them all, said that mankind's long separation from its divine nature and the existence of human-like animals consistutes the most important problem of the world today. These human-like animals are either themselves drowned in all kinds of vices, or are making victims of innocent people, such as the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In another part of his sermons, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili referred to the fact that the enemies of the Islamic revolution are still poised to attack Iran. He then stressed the need for total alertness by the people to confront threats by enemies.

Praising the revolutionary spirits of the people of Iran, he added: Today we all must unite in an effort to defend all the gains of the revolution with all our existence. No excuse can justify any failure in performing such a religious and patriotic duty.

He also offered his condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of His Holiness Imam Mohammad Taqi, peace be on him, and explained parts of his biography.

Warns of Plots

LD2105123993 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—Substitute leader of Friday congregational prayers Ayatollah 'Abd-al-Qarim Musavi Ardebili here Friday [21 May] warned the world arrogance against plots against the Islamic Republic and called on the Muslim people of Iran to defend their revolution with all their power.

He said the enemies of the revolution are lying in ambush to attack the revolution and thereby vent their hatred of the revolution and Islam.

The ayatollah said the abrogation of capitulation agreement to which Iran adhered before the revolution was an outstanding success by the Islamic Republic in its first year. He said according to the capitulation agreement no one, in whatsoever capacity, could possibly sue an American in Iran for any offence committed by him.

The ayatollah also paid tribute to Muslim combatants and to the Armed Forces on the occasion of the anniversary of the liberation of the Iranian Persian Gulf port city of Khorramshaht that had been occupied by the invading Iraqi troops at the outbreak of the war (1980-1988).

Elsewhere in his first sermon he referred to the annual Hajj ritual and expressed hope that the world community of pilgrims in Mecca would do their best to benefit from the teachings of the ritual.

He said the most vital problem in the world today is not that of technology but rather the existence of a group of humans who are aggressors and in whom humanity is absent, against other humans.

The substitute leader of Friday congregational prayers referred in passing to the late Turkish President Turgut Ozal and to his last will and testament that required an unceremonial burial without brass band accompaniment and instead by recitations from the Holy Koran. This, he said, was lauded by the common people in Turkey and prompted the masses throughout the country to participate in his burial ceremonies while shouting Islamic slogans.

Before the main service of the Friday congregational prayers Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps General Mohsen Reza'i lauded the Armed Forces for their crucial role in liberating the port city of Khorramshahr the annivesary of which was celebrated throughout the country today.

He said today the Islamic Republic is a mighty nation and that it intends to develop into a politically and culturally strong nation in the future.

President Addresses Qom Scholars on Economic Policy

LD2005191993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] At a gathering of the members of the Association of the Representatives of the Students and Scholars of Qom Religious Seminaries [majma'-e nemayandegan-e tollab va fozala-ye howze-ye 'elmiye-ye Qom] today, the president stressed current government policies for achieving social justice and for reforming the economic structure for the sake of eliminating dependence and making adequate use of the existing capabilities of the country, as well as taking care of the deprived areas and ensuring the industrial development of the country.

Referring to the fact that, despite the irresponsible attitude of some circles, the government is determined to build up the infrastructure of the country's economy to put an end to economic dependence on a single commodity, namely oil, the president said: How can one claim to possess a healthy and independent economy while one is dependent on the sale of oil which is now used as a weapon in the hands of industrial powers so as to bring the producing countries to their knees and which also does not belong solely to a single generation.

He added: It is unavoidable that we get rid of complete dependence on the sale of national resources, provide the means for instilling self-reliance and confidence in the nation and rely on domestic capabilities, productive capacity and skilled human resources. It is natural that the implementation of this policy will also result in certain bottlenecks. However, due to God's grace and with the support of the people, a large part of these bottlenecks have been overcome and with patience and common endeavors we will overcome most remaining problems in the future.

In another part of his speech the president said: Today's Iran, as the result of planning, looking into the future, and attempts at eliminating economic dependence, will overcome the difficulties one after another. In view of the major infrastructural measures and important and fundamental plans, as the official in charge of the executive branch I regard the recent past as the most brilliant period in Iranian history.

Emphasizing the grave responsibilities of the educated classes and the scholars, especially the progressive clerical classes, in describing and elucidating the policies of the system and enlightening members of the public, especially the youth, the president asked his audience to participate more extensively in this important task through greater familiarity with domestic and international issues of the day.

After the speech by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani a number of questions were asked about the political, economic, and cultural issues of the country which were answered by the president. At the start of this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Faker, one of the officials of the Qom religious seminaries, made a speech in which he described the goal of the meeting of the members of the Association of Representatives of the Scholars and Students of Qom Religious Seminaries with the president as greater familiarity with the issues of the day for the sake of propagation and guidance of the society.

President Says Transportation Subsidies To Continue

LD1905161093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 May 93

[Excerpts] The president has said that one of the priorities to which the government is paying special attention is the removal of existing bottlenecks in the country's transportation sector. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] The president was officiating at ceremonies marking the addition of 300 articulated buses to the city transportation system of the Tehran United Bus Company. He described the utilization of more than 500,000 million rials and $300 million in foreign exchange on modernization and expansion of urban transportation as an enormous, unprecedented, and speedy investment. [passage omitted]

He stressed that the government will continue to pay subsidies to the transportation sector, adding: At present moving each urban passenger in Tehran costs 160 rials while in the provincial cities it costs 75 rials. More than half of that cost is provided by the government through subsidies. The president went on to say: Since the society's deprived and needy class are directly assiciated with the transportation and benefit from it, the government believes that payment of such subsidies is correct in economic terms; such payments are not squandered. [passage omitted]

Referring to the good progress achieved in implementation of the Tehran Metro project he said: A great part of the project on Tehran's metro has been completed. At present we are at the stage of buying wagons and equipment for the lines. We hope to arrive at a point at which we will be able to solve the difficulties by manufacturing the required equipment at home and making optimum use of them. [passage omitted]

Non-Oil Exports Up 20 Percent Over 1991

LD2005083193 Tehran IRNA in English 0808 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Semnan, May 20, IRNA—Iran exported dlrs. 3 million worth of non-oil products last year, an increase of 20 percent over the previous year, said Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji.

According to the minister hand-woven carpets and rugs comprised 40 percent of the exported goods while 20 percent were industrial manufactured goods and the remaining agricultural products.

The ministry either set up or contributed to the holding of some 23 domestic exhibitions as well as 60 fairs abroad last year to represent the high quality of Iranian products.

He pointed to the fact that industrial goods were 100 percent exempted from export tax while the figure was 50 percent for traditional commodities.

Adjustment of executive regulations and allocation of 6.5 percent of banking facilities to exports were among other facilities provided for promotion of exports, the minister noted.

Exports to the Central Asian republics would be exempted from current regulations governing over registeration of orders, Vahaji concluded.

Spokesman Discusses Moves To Privatize Industry

LD1705164393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The government wants to transfer industry to the private sector. What are the conditions of the transfer? Furthermore, does the government give priority to those who have greater purchasing power or to those having greater managerial abilities?

[Begin recording of government spokesman Hasan Habibi] A group of industries were placed in government care because they had no proper management after the Islamic revolution, and the government had to put them under the care of the Organization of National Industries and the Organization for the Development of Production Units, as well as the Organization for Industrial Development. We did this after the victory of the revolution in order to organize the industrial and productive sectors.

In the new period, and with the economic program that we now have—which intends to use people's potential and capital together—it was decided that there will be a transfer of parts of the industry and parts of the country's productive potential, as well as of factories where there is no constitutional opposition to their transfer to the non-state sector, i.e. the cooperative and private sectors. Of course, it is in the interest of the country that some sectors remain in government hands. [passage omitted]

It was also decided that there was the need for some units, that could be transferred to the private sector, to maintain their connection to the government. These were all set aside.

Now there remains a group of industries that could be transferred to the private sector. The government passed a bill two years ago stating the conditions for the transfer—which requires that 33 percent of the shares must go to the workers of the units. The rest, which is the share of the government, will be given to the people to buy through three channels. One is through the stock market, which is standard practice. The shares are put on the stock market and sold within the regulations of the stock market. Another is through tender.

There are also particular cases where the transfer is made through negotiations between government representatives holding the shares and those prepared to buy. Here we face two issues. The main issues is that of management. We want the industries to be under the control of strong management, which could increase production and better use the combination of capital and the existing facilities of the country. This is to economize the industry and to increase production. This is the government's first aim. Naturally, those who have capital and who want to invest are either managers themselves or employ strong managers in order not to allow the destruction of their capital. This will be a combination of management and capital. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Seminar on Foreign Exchange, Finance Policy Held

LD1905114093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 May 93

[Excerpts] The third seminar on the country's foreign exchange and monetary policy will discuss the problems of foreign exchange, monetary practice, and capital market in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] The third annual seminar on the country's foreign exchange and monetary policies, organized by the Institute of Monetary and Banking Research, began its deliberations today at the Central Bank of Iran in Tehran. [passage omitted]

Opening the seminar, Economy and Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh said: The Islamic Republic system is determined to implement in its second economic development plan the kind of policies that are approved by the majority of the researchers and experts.

He said that it was natural to face some difficulties when policies on economic reconstruction, adjustment, and development were implemented all at once.

However, the minister rejected the notion that the country's new economic policies, including the one on privatization, were enforced on the recommendation of such organizations as the World Bank.

He said: These policies were drafted by the experts of the three branches of government at the time of the presence of his eminence the imam, may his soul be admitted to God's paradise. He added that these policies were approved by the Majles and his eminence the imam. Now they are being enforced by the government.

At the same seminar, Central Bank Governor Mohamad Hoseyn 'Adeli submitted a report on the single-rate foreign exchange policy and its consequences. He said that the special features of this policy are: gradual implementation of monetary and foreign exchange policies, refraining from shock treatment, rationalization of the rates as well as refraining from falling into the trap of the spiral of inflation and devaluation, and, finally, elimination of foreign exchange subsidies to special groups.

He said: In the money and capital market, the Central Bank has tried to swing the people's savings from short-term deposits to long-term investments. It has also tried to allow depositors greater participation in the yield on investments through an increase in the rates of interest. Also, it has tried to encourage the establishment of private credit institutions and to stimulate business in the stock exchange.

Ahmad Khomeyni on Importance of Anniversary Ceremonies

LD1605120693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 May 93

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni today met members of the headquarters in charge of holding ceremonies to mark the anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeyni [4 June], may God's peace be upon him. He said: Honoring the memory of religious personalities and dignitaries is one of Islam's important rituals. He added: Honoring the memory of and paying respect to religious dignitaries should in fact be taken as a sign of admiration and regard for Islamic values and thoughts.

He stressed that honoring the memory of Imam Khomeyni, may God's peace be upon him, is among the most basic duties of the country's cultural and publicity organizations. We should take advantage of this opportunity to convey the message of the revolution and the imam and the leadership's stances, he stated.

Addressing the officials in charge of holding the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the demise of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God's peace be upon him, he noted: In a situation where world arrogance has strengthened its vindictive hostility in various forms against the Islamic revolution's values and achievements, and is attacking the highest values of the Islamic revolution and Imam Khomeyni's thoughts, we should take advantage of the anniversary of the demise of his eminence the imam, may God's peace be upon him, to reflect Islamic and revolutionary values and introduce the undiscovered dimensions of Imam Khomeyni's thoughts.

He added: Today the ideals of the revolution are sustained under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. The system's adherence to principles of the revolution and Islam has provoked our enemies' anger more than ever. Because they are continuing Islamic ideals and principles, the system and the revolution are under the bullying powers' pressure. During ceremonies marking the anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeyni, we should introduce to the world the justice-seeking and anti-oppression message of the Islamic revolution and the firm stances of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Jurists, Majles Deputies Form Human Rights Committee

LD1705104993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] A Majles human rights committee, consisting of 17 jurists and Majles deputies, has been established. The committee is a national, nongovernmental organ, which will be active in the field of human rights within and outside the country. Twelve of the 17 members of the committee's central council are Iranian Majles deputies, who have joined on a voluntary basis.

According to the secretary general of the Majles preliminary [moqadamati] human rights committee, membership in the committee is open to interested parties. Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani, Majles deputy for Tehran, who is in charge of the preliminary committee, told reporters today: The aim behind the formation of a human rights committee in the Majles is to investigate, study, and prepare a report on human rights inside and outside the country, and to offer suggestions and assistance for resolving any existing problems. He said: The committee's platform consists of defending legitimate personal and social liberties, and it will carry out its work without any form of affiliation and with full observance of neutrality within Iran and throughout the world. He said: The committee's budget will come from its members, interested parties, and donations, and it will not in any way be affiliated with the Majles or the government.

Majles Ratifies Bill on Population Control

LD1605133093 Tehran IRNA in English 1253 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—The Majles on Sunday [16 May] ratified the bill on family planning and population control.

According to the bill, all privileges granted under the law to the children will not be given to the fourth child of a family who is born a year after the law comes to effect. Those born before the period will continue to enjoy the privileges.

The second paragraph of the bill obliges Ministry of Education to include appropriate educational material on population control and health of mothers and children in school text books. Furthermore, the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education is to include one credit hour on population and family planning in the curriculum of all universities.

The bill also envisages that the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance should encourage journalists, film makers and other artists to promote public knowledge on population control and family planning.

Pakistan

Government Welcomes U.S. Mediation Offer on Kashmir

BK2005154693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the U.S. offer of mediation between Pakistan and India to resolve the Kashmir dispute. In an interview with the BBC today, Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan said that Pakistan has always felt that the United States can play a positive role in this regard. He was commenting on the statement given by John Malott, the deputy assistant secretary of state, at the end of his visit to India in which he had said that the United States is ready to play its role in settling the 45-year-old dispute between India and Pakistan.

Azad Kashmir Premier Wants 'Concrete Action'

BK2105112193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] The Azad Kashmir prime minister, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, has called for concrete action by the United States to back its official statement and stop

India from its barbaric behavior in occupied Kashmir. Commenting on a statement of the U.S. principal [as heard] deputy assistant secretary of state for South Asian region, Mr. John Malott, in New Delhi, he said it should logically lead to two consequences. First, the United States should take necessary measures to stop Indian aggression on Kashmir. Secondly, the United States should continue pressurizing India to initiate a political process to settle this long-standing dispute. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan appealed to the freedom-loving people the world over and governments of the free world in particular to take necessary action to forestall such a tragedy.

Comment on U.S. Official's Regional Tour

Muslim Unity Urged

BK1805052593 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 16 May 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The Arrival of the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State: Pressure on Pakistan and the Islamic Community's Responsibility"]

[Text] John R. Malott, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, has arrived in Islamabad for talks with the Pakistani Government on a five-point agenda. He visited New Delhi earlier and heard the Indian Government's viewpoints on these issues. The United States is apparently trying to help establish India's hegemony in this region, and to achieve this objective, Washington is pressuring Pakistan to unilaterally abandon its nuclear program, reduce its defense budget, stop interfering in occupied Kashmir, desist from aiding and abetting terrorism, and cooperate with India in restoring mutual trust. Even though the United States is putting direct pressure on Pakistan on two issues—terrorism and the nuclear program—and has completely stopped aid to Pakistan on the pretext of the Pressler Amendment, Washington's action on these two issues also indirectly serves India's interests. It is India that will benefit from the defense budget cut, because the size of Pakistan's convential forces is much smaller than that of India, and if the two countries are forced to reduce their defense budgets equally, then this cut will hurt only Pakistan. The objective behind all these U.S. efforts is nothing other than to render Pakistan so powerless and weak that it would not dare raise its head in front of India and, instead, must follow India's stand on regional and international issues.

The question is: What kind of United States is trying to control Pakistani affairs from across the oceans? It is out and out a new colonialist striving to dominate the entire world. The very objective of the U.S. new world order theory is to assume the status of the world's sole superpower after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. In fact, no power at present can dare stand face to face with the United States, and the expounder of the new world order is continuing to dominate the world unchecked, unhindered. This does not mean, however, that one will blindly and subserviently follow U.S. dictates. Every country must look after its own interests and Pakistan's interest lies in becoming strong and stable in the face of a power like India, which harbors a greedy desire to establish its hegemony in the region. India has already exploded a nuclear device in 1974 and Pakistan is trying to develop its own nuclear program to ensure peace on the Indian subcontinent through a nuclear deterrent. If any of our so-called national leaders speaks against this nuclear deterrent, then he should be reproved and rejected by the nation.

If the United States is afraid of nuclear power, then it should help eliminate India's nuclear capability and then come and talk to Pakistan about this. The balance of conventional forces in the Indian Subcontinent has always been in favor of India which, taking advantage of its superiority, has been making its smaller neighbors the targets of its aggression. In the past, India enjoyed the patronage of the Soviet Union and now it has leaped into the lap of the United States which did not at all hesitate in pampering India in view of their joint anti-Islamic objective.

Now, a U.S. emissary is in Islamabad to pressure Pakistan. Regrettably, Pakistan does not have an elected government and is currently facing political instability. In any case, the caretaker government should not bow to U.S. pressure. Also, the Islamic community should try to strengthen its power in view of the U.S. supremacy and dictates under the cover of the new world order and collectively ask Washington to desist from anti-Muslim activities. If the Muslims continue to remain prisoners of their own self- interests and if the present state of disunity and disharmony in the Islamic community prevails, then the United States will first succeed in imposing its will on Pakistan and later treat other countries in the same manner. The Muslim countries should, therefore, forge unity in their ranks and take concrete measures, instead of indulging in hollow discussions at their conferences, to face this veritable challenge.

U.S. Seeking Regional Peace

BK2105064293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 20 May 93

[A.B.S. Jafri commentary]

[Text] Mr. John Malott, the deputy assistant secretary of state of the United States, has urged India to take positive steps to solve the problems which have marred relations between the two major states in the South Asian subcontinent, Pakistan and India. Mr. Malott has been having talks with Indian leaders after a round of similar contacts with Pakistani leaders in Islamabad. In an address to the International Institute of India, the Unites States official emphasized the need to bring down the temperature (?faced) by the subcontinent and adopt a step-by-step approach to the string of problems which pose threat to the peace and tranquillity of the subcontinent and its nearly 1 billion people.

It needs to be noted that Mr. John Malott is the seniormost official of the Clinton administration to visit Pakistan and India. His stress on tackling the Kashmir question on a priority basis is obviously an indication that the government of President Clinton recognizes that the Kashmir dispute is at the root of many unsettling factors in the present situation of South Asia. Although the United States has expressed its reluctance to formally mediate between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir dispute, Mr. Malott told his Indian audience that Washington would be more than willing to persuade, assist, and (?induce) the two parties to sit across the table and work their way to a solution under the 21-year-old Simla Accord signed by the late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the Pakistani prime minister, and Mrs. Indira Gandhi, his Indian counterpart.

Mr. Malott also pointedly referred to the nuclear nonproliferation issue. On this subject too, Mr. Malott advised India, as he has done in the case of Pakistan, to sort out matters by dialogue. It is well known that nuclear proliferation is a matter of very special concern for the Clinton administration. On this issue, the Government of the United States is determined to secure progress and expects Pakistan and India to work toward signing the nonproliferation treaty which has come to be called the NPT. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it has pursued a clear and categorical policy. Pakistan has said from the very beginning that it fully realizes that proliferation of nuclear weapons of mass destruction is a direct threat to world peace. Besides, nations in the position of Pakistan and India simply cannot bear the burden of developing nuclear weapons. But, for the sake of sheer security, Pakistan wants that India, which is a known nuclear weapon holder, should adhere to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and the moment India goes to sign the NPT, Pakistan too would do likewise without any reservation. It may be recalled that Pakistan initiated a move for a five-power conference to pave the way for a nuclear-free Asia. The five powers invited to this conference are the United States, Russia, China, and India. Pakistan is happy to see that the United States, Russia, and China have readily endorsed Pakistan's move. It is only India which is not willing to talk the matter over in a bid to settle the nuclear proliferation issue once and for all.

Mr. Malott was quite as firm as he was clear about what the United States Government thought of India's human rights record—another major concern of the Clinton administration. He did not mince words about what Washington felt about the state of human rights in Indian-occupied part of the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir. By affirming that in the view of the United States, the state was a disputed territory, Mr. Malott recorded a rejection of India's insistence that occupied Kashmir is an inseparable part of the Indian union. Mr. Malott wanted negotiations to start between Islamabad and New Delhi to finally settle the future of Kashmir state. He also told the Indians that the United States would expect India to open the occupied Kashmir to human rights monitoring organizations. For several years, the occupied Kashmir has been under direct military rule. Civil government does not exist and the Indian Armed Forces assigned to occupied Kashmir are exempted by special laws from (?basic) discipline. During the last three years or so, several thousand people have been killed in military action and hundreds have died in custody. Thousands of women have been raped by soldiers in search and arrest operations. It should be clear to the world, particularly to India, that the United States wants to see South Asia a region of peace and harmony.

Press Comments on Visit to India by Israel's Peres

Meeting of 'Pariahs'

BK1905103393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 19 May 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Jew Meets Bunya" [merchant caste]]

[Text] When two pariahs meet, the neighbourhood is understandably nervous. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is currently in India to promote mutual relations and to sign the first treaty of co-operation in science and technology between Israel and India. The story also contains a brief statement from the spokesman of External Affairs Ministry of India that the two sides will also discuss increasing threat of terrorism to Israel and India.

The growing co-operation between these two countries is not surprising since both Israel and India have the dubious distinction of engaging in the suppression of liberation movements in territories they are occupying by the use of brute force. In the cold war era, it was the considered policy of Indian establishment to give low profile to Tel Aviv-New Delhi axis, preferring secret deals and behind-the-scenes diplomacy. The reasons were commercial as well as political. India did not want to lose lucrative markets in the Middle East because of its links with Israel. Nor did it want to lose its diplomatic and moral clout in the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] by its close association with Zionism. Now that NAM has lost a lot of influence in a unipolar world and Soviet empire is no more, Indians are drifting towards their natural allies as they perceive substantial dividends in this friendship. Israel for long has been the US policeman in the Middle East in return for massive military assistance. It did all the dirty work for Uncle Sam in punishing those governments which worked against American interests. Now India is assuming the same or similar role and is keen to become a tool of Washington in this region. American policy makers are looking for special type of allies who could stop Muslim states from developing their military and economic potential. The word fundamentalism is bandied about a great deal by the West, but it is applied to any state with

Muslim majority which has the resources and will to stand up to external pressure. New Delhi, Tel Aviv, and Washington agree on the desirability of keeping the Islamic world backward, weak and dependent. In view of all these circumstances, Pakistan cannot be oblivious to the possible implications of growing ties between the two states that are expansionist are built on basic inequities, and are diven by historical and social hatreds. Some of the consequences which are likely to flow from the axis of the pariahs is the increasing co -operation between Mosad and RAW for [Research and Analysis Wing] [words indistinct] destabilise it. Selective strikes, covert or overt, against military installations by the combined effort of Israel and India cannot be ruled dout. Then of course, there is a whole array of sophisticated high-tech defence systems which the two countries can exchange. India-Israel partnership is no routine state-to-state relationship—it is part of a global strategy of the US and West to impose its hegemony over the rest of the world.

India of today has come a long way from the idealism of Nehru and Gandhi. It is now at the same moral wave length as South Africa, Serbia and Israel. What a fall for the Sons of Punch Shila!

Said Planning Attack

BK2005140393 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 19 May 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The India-Israel Alliance and Our Responsibilities"]

[Text] Informed sources in the U.S. State Department say that India and Israel have devised a plan to teach Pakistan a lesson in July this year. These U.S. sources, who are fully abreast of South Asian affairs, say that during the current visit of Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, the Indian authorities will present him maps of some hypothetical places where Pakistan allegedly provides training to terrorists. The Israeli foreign minister during his visit to the PRC this week will request it remain neutral so these places can be destroyed by launching a limited attack on Pakistan with the cooperation of Israel. Pakistan's sensitive places will be targeted during this attack. India has also sought permission from the United States for this operation.

Pakistan's enemies, including India, are always looking for opportunities to launch operations against Pakistan. They get such an opportunity only when an uncertain situation prevails in Pakistan. The December 1971 war was also imposed on Pakistan under a similar situation when martial law was in force in the country and the issue of a transfer of power could not be resolved even though the elections were over. Now, also, the country is undergoing a political crisis. Most of the political parties are demanding the dissolution of provincial assemblies. It is also being demanded that elections be conducted under the supervision of the Army. An atmosphere of severe political confrontation is prevailing in the country.

The intentions of the India-Israel alliance as revealed by the U.S. State Department sources can easily be understood in view of the dangerous designs of the two countries. The two countries are engaged in carrying out propaganda at the international level against Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program and the United States itself has suspended military and economic aid to Pakistan opposing this program. An unsuccessful attempt has already been made in the past to attack a Pakistani nuclear installation, and both India and Israel were involved in it.

The armed struggle of independence by the freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir has baffled the Indian Government and Indian military experts have hinted that it is not possible now for India to maintain its hold over occupied Kashmir. India, instead of realizing the reality, is pointing fingers at Pakistan. It accuses Pakistan of providing assistance to the freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir and supporters of Khalistan in east Punjab. Both these problems are, in fact, the outcome of the prejudice and narrow-mindedness of the rulers of India and India's hysterical desire to emerge as a mini-superpower in South Asia. And because of this desire, its relations with almost all neighboring countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives are tense and it has disputes with them. On the other hand, however, Pakistan enjoys cordial relations with all its neighbors except India.

India's rejection of every Pakistani offer, including the invitation to the Indian foreign secretary to visit Pakistan in connection with the investigations into the Bombay bombings, reflects its dangerous designs. Indian Home Minister Chavan, addressing a press conference, rejected the Pakistani invitation and alleged that the Memon brothers, who were allegedly involved in Bombay bombings, are in Pakistan. Apart from this absurd allegation, India has decided to send two more Army divisions to occupied Kashmir in an attempt to control the situation there. The large-scale evacuation of people from the Rajasthan border areas and the intensity of attacks on the frontier regions of Azad Kashmir bear testimony to the India-Israel alliance and hint at the possibility of a dangerous step against Pakistan any time. The enemy is waiting to grab the opportunity.

It is now our responsibility to realize the gravity of the situation and be prepared to face it. Our main problem at present is the country's political crisis and the state of uncertainty. In view of the threats to the country's security, it is the collective national responsibility of every individual in the country to fulfill his duty in strengthening the country's internal frontier and keeping it peaceful. The Armed Forces can pay their full attention to the external frontiers only when they are not worried about the internal frontier. A caretaker government is now in office and it is the government's responsibility to keep watch over the situation and try to take all political forces into confidence regardless of their political affiliations. It is imperative for the country's independence and national security to keep the nation fully geared to face external aggression while leaving behind all political differences, and to spare no efforts to make our internal ranks as strong as possible.

Central Asian Situation Assessed

BK2005110593 Karachi DAWN in English 20 May 93 pp 11, 20

[Editorial: "A Sinister Project"]

[Text] That in the course of the visit to New Delhi of the Israeli foreign minister, Mr Shim'on Peres, India and Israel should be wanting to upgrade their ties is understandable. Excluded so long from this part of the world, Israel has sound reasons to cherish the opening provided by its links with India. As for India, it has shed all inhibitions of doing business with Israel. A convergence of interests is bringing both the countries together. But that, at the same time, they should be wanting to promote "democracy" as a counterweight to "fundamentalism" in the newly independent Muslim states of Central Asia betrays a degree of presumptuousness if not arrogance on their part. It is one thing for the Central Asian republics themselves to set or change their direction for the future but quite another for India and Israel to be worried about Islamic trends in those states [words indistinct], however, that Israel has been seriously striving for some time now to make inroads into the Central Asian states. The secular past of these states, when they were part of the Soviet empire, is a factor which can only facilitate Israel's efforts in this regard. This is all the more reason for countries such as Pakistan, Iran and Turkey to recognise the threat posed by Israel's great game in Central Asia and to take effective steps to meet it.

The question, however, is how should Pakistan, Iran and Turkey go about this task? It would not be enough to merely stress the commonality of faith between us and the peoples of Central Asia. This theme, which has been beaten to death by repeatedly using it as a cliched refrain, is not likely to send ripples of excitement though the newly independent states which are more interested in effective economic interaction than in sermons about our common heritage. Some tangible steps like opening air links with Central Asia have already been taken by Pakistan. But much more awaits our attention. The Muslim republics of Central Asia are hungry for capital and the know-how and skills—and in the immediate context, consumer goods—that go to make a market economy. Pakistan can be of help to a certain extent. The trouble is that so far our efforts have not kept pace with our promises. If this situation lasts other countries will take up the slack, leaving us to bemoan our lost opportunities in Central Asia.

As far as the ideological question is concerned, it is a clever trick of the enemies of Islam to conjure up a conflict [words indistinct]. The two concepts are wholly compatible and Pakistan has no reason to feel apologetic on this score. Being both an Islamic country and a functioning democracy (a proposition which is not invalidated by our present troubles) Pakistan is in a better position to talk about democratic values and human rights in Central Asia than India where communal violence and Hindu fundamentalism have been on the rise or Israel which has usurped the national rights of the Palestinian people and is in illegal occupation of Arab territory. But in any event it is not enough to inveigh against the sinister overtones of Indo-Israeli collusion in a region which is geographically and historically close to us. We must take concrete steps to counter this danger.

'Exceptional' Indian Troop Movement in Disputed Area

BK2005104593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 20 May 93 p 1

[Text] Mirpur (AJK), [Azad Jammu-Kashmir], May 19—India has geared up its military movement along other side of the Line of Control [LOC] belt in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to exceptional extent, says a report reaching here yesterday from across the Line of Control.

The activities of the Indian occupying troops in the border villages situated along other side of the LOC belt, were being seen accelerated suddenly since past many days, the report said quoting eye witnesses as saying.

The Indian troops, the report added, have not only started hoarding huge stocks of sophisticated foreign-made arms, but also gathering the heavy stocks of foodstuff in the border areas.

The border villages along other side of the Line of Control belt, were also being vacated from the civil population by the fast-moving Indian troops to the radius of about 15 miles. Night curfew has also been clamped on, various border villages of occupied Kashmir, particularly shoot-on-sight orders have already been served to the patrolling Indian troops to check the movement of the civil population in the curfew-clamped areas.

The report said that wave of grave concern spread among the border areas population in occupied Kashmir following sudden heavy building up of Indian troops and acceleration of their professional activities in the border villages to extraordinary extent.

The daily life of the civil population, the report indicated, has been paralysed due to sudden undue movement and stepping up of the military activities of the Indian occupying forces in the border areas of the held valley.

The report added that in order to discourage any attempt of infiltration from across the LOC, India has created heavy barbed wire fence along the LOC belt, facing Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. Meanwhile [words indistinct] the sudden undue movement of the Indian occupying forces along the LOC belt in occupied Kashmir, the defence observers in occupied Kashmir opined that

India might indulge in sudden aggression against Azad Kashmir before the coming winter.

In this connection the observers referred to the frequent border violations by India in the Line of Control in Kashmir in shape of [words indistinct] living on the civil population of various border areas of Azad Kashmir, particularly in Poonch, Leepa and Chakothi sectors since past many days.

Afghanistan's Rabbani Satisfied With Jalalabad Talks

BK2005143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] The Afghan president, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, has expressed satisfaction over the outcome of talks among Afghan leaders at Jalalabad. The Afghan president was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the new Afghan Consulate building in Peshawar this afternoon. He said the unanimous decision made by the Afghan leaders would help forge unity among the Afghan people enabling them to lead a peaceful life. The Jalalabad meeting arranged by a Jehadi Shura ended yesterday after having remained in session for 20 days. The meeting was participated by leaders of mojahedin tanzimat [organizations]. Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani said all the leaders at the meeting have decided to put an end to further bloodshed in Afghanistan and sink their differences.

Earlier, at Pak-Afghan border, the Afghan president, Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani was received by Pakistan's ambassador in Afghanistan, Mr. Amir Usman, and other high-ranking officials. Some Afghan leaders also accompanied the Afghan president. At the Pak-Afghan border, a small contingent of Frontier Corps presented a salute to the Afghan president.

Foreign Minister Arrives in New York for Talks

BK2105034393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada will brief UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali on the outcome of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference which was held in Karachi recently. The foreign minister, who arrived in New York yesterday, will apprise the UN secretary general of the ICO's concerns over Kashmir, Palestine, and other problems facing the Islamic community. He will discuss with Butrus-Ghali Pakistan's role at the United Nations, especially as a member of the UN Security Council. On Monday, Pirzada will preside over an ICO meeting which will review in detail and coordinate the ICO stand on major issues that are likely to figure at the United Nations. Pakistan is the current chairman of the ICO foreign ministers conference.

Chinese Air Force Delegation Paying Eight-Day Visit

BK2105144093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] A six-member Chinese delegation led by Air Chief Lieutenant General Cao Shuang Ming arrived in Karachi on eight-day visit to Pakistan. The Chinese delegation was received at the Karachi airport by the chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Firoze Khan. During its stay in Pakistan, the delegation is expected to meet the president, the prime minister, and the defense minister and will visit a number of PAF [Pakistan Air Force] installations and formations.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Visits PRC

WA2105141093

For PRC reportage on the visit by Akram Zaki, secretary general of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 21 May and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.

President Khan Addresses Military Ceremony

BK2005151893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has reiterated Pakistan's desire for an early and just solution of the Kashmir issue. Addressing a darbar [meeting] held in connection with installation ceremony of the new colonel commandants of the Punjab Regiment in Mardan today, the president said the just solution of the problem would ensure peace and tranquillity in South Asian region. He said this would not only meet the requirements of international law and principles of justice but would also usher in a new era of economic and social development for the millions of people of the region. The ceremony was attended by by the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] governor, Mr. Amir Gulistan Janjua; the chief minister, Mr. Mir Afzal Khan; adviser to the prime minister, Mr. Roedad Khan; the interior minister, Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan Hoti; and senior officers of the Pakistan Army.

The president said it is the earnest need of the hour to enhance integrity and national thinking despite differences in political ideologies and viewpoints. He said neither we can implement development projects for the achievement of prosperity nor can we develop defense capabilities unless we develop a sense of being a Pakistani. He said the Army cannot face the enemies effectively in an atmosphere where people among us are at loggerheads behind the lines. He said although defense of the country is the direct responsibility of the Army, but is also the collective responsibility of the nation. He said certain elements were creating hatred among the nation for their petty ends and were not only weakening the unity of the nation but also inflicting damage to the defense capabilities.

Paying rich tribute to the defense services, the president said Pakistan Army is a national organization which shed blood at every corner of the frontiers irrespective of race, color, ethnic, and regional variations. The president said that the identity of the Army is Pakistani and has the courage to lay down their lives for Pakistan.

Earlier, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan along with chief of the army staff, General Abdul Waheed, pinned the badges of colonel commandant on the shoulders of Lieutenant General Mohammad Nasir Akhtar. The Punjab regiment was created in 1858 and received four Nishan-i- Haider [award] out of eight awarded so far. Addressing the darbar, the colonel commandant said that he will make all-out efforts toward enhancing professional capabilities and welfare of the regiment.

Mazari Denies Crisis as PDA Abstains From Cabinet Meeting

BK2105025093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari says there is no political crisis in the country. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday evening, he said he has been stating from the very beginning that if there is any constitutional mismanagement or the provincial assemblies do not function according to the Constitution, then they can be dissolved. When asked about the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] claims that an understanding was previously reached on the dissolution of the provincial assemblies, the prime minister said the PDA might have reached this understanding with certain persons but not with him.

Answering a question about the nonparticipation of the PDA in the Cabinet meeting yesterday, Mazari said that this was their own decision and that it has not created any political crisis.

Mazari Hands Over Sharif Plane to Airlines

BK2005160293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari handed over a special 737-300 Boeing passenger plane to Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] at a function at Islamabad international airport this afternoon. It will be included in the regular PIA flights. The plane was purchased for personal use by the dismissed prime minister with foreign exchange of 1 billion rupees and additional funds were spent for its maintenance. The prime minister decided to hand over the plane to the PIA so that the people can use it, as it was purchased with their resources. The prime minister said that it is unfortunate that such extravagant practice was resorted to in a country like Pakistan, something which is inconceivable even in some developed countries. The prime minister said that it is impossible to comprehend why a plane which was already working was abandoned and such a costly and expensive plane was acquired to replace it.

Official Charges Sharif With Illegal Spending

BK1405115293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The chairman of the Accountability Committee, Mian Zahid Sarfaraz, has charged the former prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, of spending illegally over 844 million rupees at his discretion from the public exchequer during his tenure. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he pointed out that during the last financial year, the former prime minister diverted funds meant for Tamir-i-Watan [national reconstruction] program to his discretion to the tune of 52 crore and 70 lakh rupees in utter disregard of the rules and regulations. He also alleged that the former prime minister had deducted 20 crore rupees out of one billion rupees provision of Pakistan Baitul Maal [public welfare fund] for the year 1991-92 and spent at his discretion in gross violation of Baitul Maal Act.

Mr. Zahid Sarfaraz giving further details said that of the total funds of the Tamir-i-Watan program, 94 percent were spent in the Punjab and 6 percent in the rest of the country. He, however, observed that Punjab on the whole did not benefit from this arbitrary allocation as the entire fund was either utilized to serve the business interests of the ex-prime minister and his family or for his favorites.

Punjab, Sindh Ask To Be Heard in Sharif Suit

BK1805145493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The Punjab and Sindh Provinces made applications to the Supreme Court today to be heard and impleaded as parties because of the subject matter before the court related to the rights of the provinces. The advocates general of these two provinces submitted in their applications that the decision of the court on matters like Council of Common Interests, National Economic Council, and provincial autonomy is bound to affect the rights of the provinces under the Constitution. The 11-member full bench headed by the chief justice, Mr. Justice Dr. Nasim Hasan Shah, observed that they would hear tomorrow on the question as to whether they should be heard on the main petition in itself.

Meanwhile, the attorney general, Mr. Aziz A. Munshi, continued his arguments to establish nexus between the provisions of the Constitution and dissolution of the National Assembly. He contended that the former government curtailed the provincial autonomy, usurped the rights of the provinces, caused huge losses to national economy by favoritism, damage to service structure by irregular appointments and promotion, harassed journalists, and even stopped federal ministers from meeting the president for the performance of their constitutional duties. He said all these factors led to the conclusion that the government of the federation could not be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and fresh elections have become necessary. Hearing will continue tomorrow.

Sharif Against Involving National Institutions in Politics

BK2005161293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, president of the Pakistan Muslim League, Nawaz Group, has appealed to all political forces to evolve a national consensus in order to strengthen democratic institutions. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said that politicians should refrain from dragging national institutions into politics. He said that he believes in the rule of law and the Constitution and highly respects national institutions like the judiciary and the Armed Forces.

Special Court Acquits Zardari in Arms Case

BK1605145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Mr. Asif Ali Zardari [Benazir Bhutto's husband] has been acquitted today in a case under the arms act by the Special Speedy Trial Court No. 1 of Karachi for want of incriminating evidence against him.

Trading Community Opposes Strike Call

BK1705024893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Business activities throughout the country will continue as normal today because the trading community has announced its disassociation with the appeal given by some elements to serve their political aims. According to APP, many trading associations in Lahore, Faizalabad, and Karachi have stated that they are not pawns in hands of the vested interests and they will not be involved in any activity prejudicial to the country's economic interest. The strike has ended in Karachi after an appeal by some political leaders.

Rival Parties Fight Rocket Battle in Balochistan

BK2105025693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, 12 people, including four soldiers of the Frontier Corps and three employees of Pakistan Petroleum Limited, were injured when rival parties attacked each other with rockets near the country's biggest gas supply installation at Sui in Balochistan. The rockets also damaged water pipelines. Some of the rockets landed on the town of Sui and two unexploded rockets were found lying in the area. The extent of damage is still not known. The search is on to arrest the culprits.

Sri Lanka

President Pledges To Strengthen Democratic Process

BK2005114093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunge issued a policy statement at the first meeting of the cabinet of ministers which was held yesterday. The statement reiterated the fact that the policies of the government will continue to be based on the manifesto placed before the people by the late President Ranasinghe Premadasa. He said that the government will endeavor to strengthen the democratic process by fostering the multi-party system. The administration will also aim at bringing about equity and social justice. Mr. Wijetunge stressed that the government is committed to pursuing a liberal market-oriented economic policy. It will also endeavor to empower the people economically so that they will be able to stand on their own feet. The administration will make a determined effort to restore discipline by eliminating corruption, waste, and injustice. Mr. Wijetunge said that his administration would direct all its efforts to bringing the government closer to the people. While the government would continue to implement the various ongoing programs, it would take a firm policy decision to stop all tamashas [display]. The president said that if any program or project is important enough to merit a ceremonial inauguration, it would be launched with a simple and inexpensive ceremony. Emphasizing the fact that our resources are limited and that some of them have been obtained at great costs, Mr. Wijetunge said that it was a crime against society to waste such resources.

Security Forces Kill 45 LTTE Cadres in Eastern Province

BK2005120293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] The security forces have killed 45 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres since Operation Sumana commenced in the first week of March in the Toppigala jungle area of the Eastern Province. Disclosing this at yesterday's weekly news briefing in Colombo, JOC [Joint Operations Command] spokesman, Brigadier Nalin Angamana said that the security forces lost only five soldiers during the operation. He said the security forces were also able to destroy over 25 LTTE bases in the jungle area. They have established three forward operating bases in the Toppigala jungle. The area is used by the LTTE terrorist as their principal base in the Eastern Province. Brigadier Angamana said that the security forces aimed to destroy the jungle bases of the terrorists. He said that they have commenced phase-two of Operation Sumana which is being successfully carried out.

Industrial Production Rises by 12 Percent

BK2005120093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 May 93

[Text] The industrial sector has made vast strides in Sri Lanka's production and export sectors. Industrial production increased by 12 percent last year and by 10 percent the previous year. Central Bank sources say that this growth was entirely due to improved production in the private sector. Private sector industrial development has registered a 20 percent increase. Central Bank statistics says that this is the highest growth rate since 1985. The highest production was recorded in the garment sector last year. Production also increased in timber and timber products, paper, food, tobacco, and mineral production.